a quick release by

Kick the Kitty

SCANLATION RANDOM

Manga
Sci-Fi/Fantasy
USA $9.99

THE VISION OF ESCAFLOWNE

Hitomi Hoshino, a 16-year-old high school student with an interest in mysticism, experiences strange dreams at night. A mysterious temple, a tremendous jewel, a shadowy prince... the images trouble her, and a strange incantation keeps echoing in her mind. One day—during a simple fortune telling at school—Hitomi feels a magical pull, and in a shocking moment she is pulled from her body. She wakes up in a strange world where the Earth hangs in the sky and a headstrong prince asks her to power his god. Where is she? Why has she been transported? And will she really be able to wake the deity Escaflowne?

100% AUTHENTIC MANGA

OT
OLDER TEEN
AGE 16+

www.TOKYOPOP.com

THE • VISION • OF
ESCAFLOWNE
1
Aki Katsu
Original Concept by Hajime Yatate & Shoji Kawamori

天空のエスカフローネ

1

画 克・亜樹

原案 矢立肇／河森正治

（スタジオぬえ）

ESCAFLOWNE VOL 1

CONTENTS

Introduction by Lianne Sentar 4

Vision 1 5
Of Dreams and Legends

Vision 2. 85
Dilandau

Vision 3: 117
Battle in Asturia

Vision 4: 147
Rah Drick, Demon of the Heavenly Mountains

Translation - Jeremiah Bourque
English Adaptation - Lianne Sentar
Associate Editor - Tim Beedle
Retouch & Lettering - Eric Botero
Cover Layout - Raymond Makowski

Senior Editor - Mark Paniccia
Managing Editor - Jill Freshney
Production Coordinator - Antonio DePietro
Production Manager - Jennifer Miller
Art Director - Matthew Alford
Director of Editorial - Jeremy Ross
VP of Production - Ron Klamert
President & C.O.O. - John Parker
Publisher & C.E.O. - Stuart Levy

Email: editor@TOKYOPOP.com
Come visit us online at www.TOKYOPOP.com

A TOKYOPOP® Manga
TOKYOPOP® is an imprint of Mixx Entertainment, Inc
5900 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 2000, Los Angeles, CA 90036

THE VISION OF ESCAFLOWNE Volume 1 ©KATSU AKI 1995 ©SUNRISE•TV TOKYO 1995
First published in Japan in 1995 by KADOKAWA SHOTEN PUBLISHING, CO., LTD., Tokyo
English translation rights arranged with KADOKAWA SHOTEN PUBLISHING CO., LTD., Tokyo
through TUTTLE-MORI AGENCY INC., Tokyo
English text © 2003 by Mixx Entertainment, Inc
TOKYOPOP is a registered trademark of Mixx Entertainment, Inc

All rights reserved. No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders. This manga is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to actual events or locales or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

ISBN: 1-591B2-366-B

First TOKYOPOP® printing: July 2003

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in Canada

THERE'S A WORLD LIKE AN ENERGIST GLITTERING BRIGHTLY IN MY MIND.
SOMETIMES, WHEN I CLOSE MY EYES... I SEE STARS AND DREAMS.
I CAN HEAR MUSIC FROM SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY...

THE VISION OF ESCAFLOWNE

INTRODUCTION

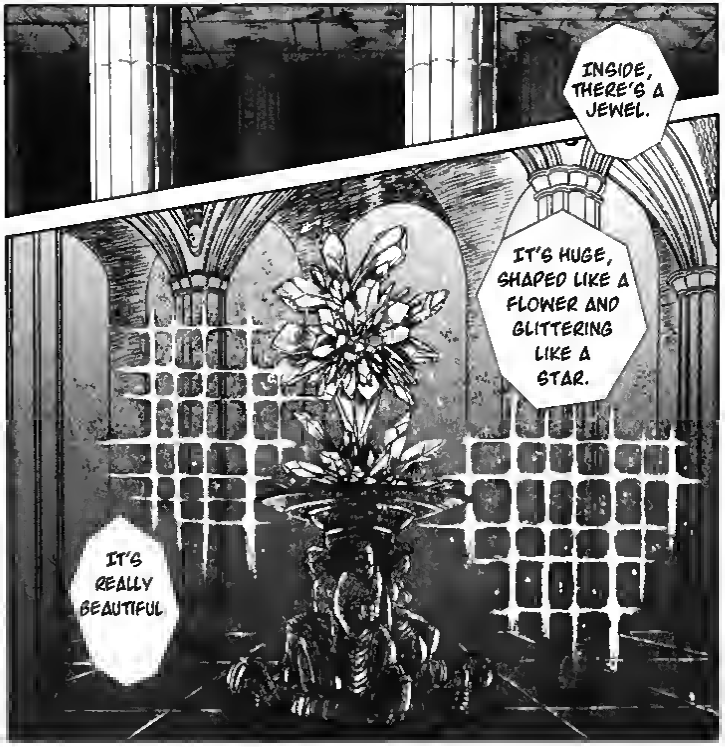
"Tenkuu no Escaflowne" ("Escaflowne of the Heavens," or "The Vision of Escaflowne" in North America) began as a story in the minds of Hajime Yatate and Shoji Kawamori, two brilliant creators who planned Hitomi's epic tale to appear as an animated television series. While most anime series begin as manga, Escaflowne's two manga series were built off the ideas developed for the anime. Yuzuru Yashiro's shoujo, or "girl's" manga, is two volumes in length. In contrast, Katsu Aki's shonen, or "boy's" manga, is much longer and happens to be the version you now hold in your hands.

Aki-sensei handled both the art and writing for this title, and it was actually the first version of Escaflowne to reach the public. While based on the concept of the anime, it began its serialization before the anime was complete. This version of the Escaflowne tale has a different flavor than the television series, with more action, tweaked character design, and an altered story. As a result, it is difficult to closely compare the two—they are simply two different versions of Hitomi's adventures. Escaflowne's versatility has always fetched great praise over the years. Its manga counterparts only expand the work's reach and deepen its universe. With that in mind, please put aside all preconceptions you may have as you sit back, relax, and enjoy this new look at the world of Escaflowne like you've never seen it before.

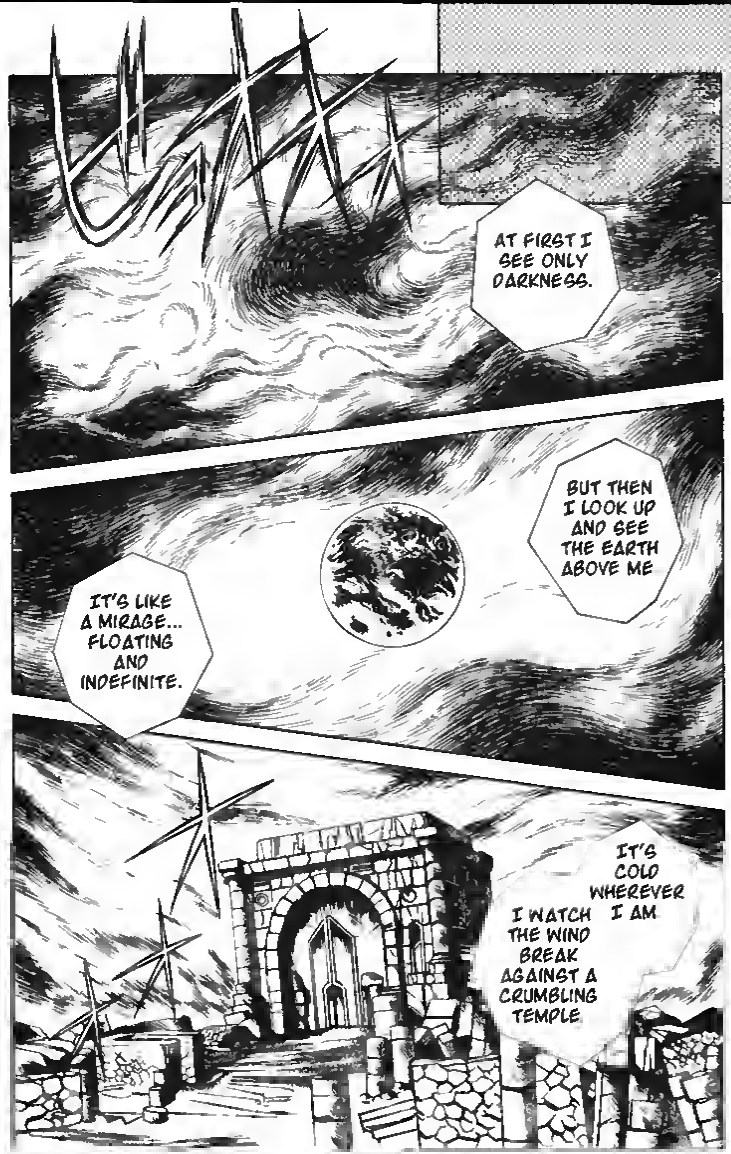
Lianne Sentar, April 2003

Special thanks to Egan Loo and his Escaflowne Compendium (http://www.anime.net/escaflowne/).

VISION I:
OF DREAMS
AND LEGENDS

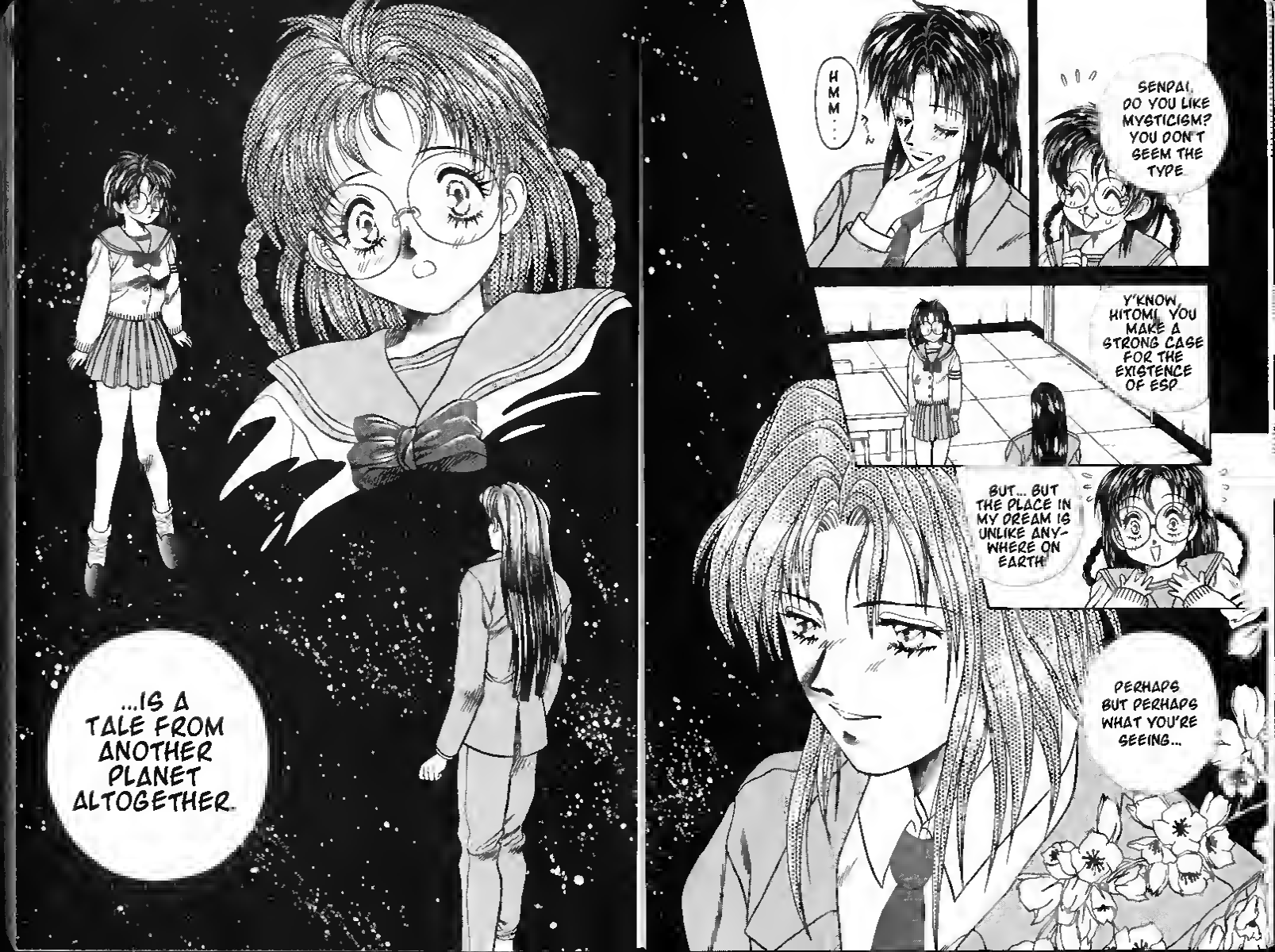

INSIDE, THERE'S A JEWEL.
IT'S HUGE, SHAPED LIKE A FLOWER AND GLITTERING LIKE A STAR.
IT'S REALLY BEAUTIFUL

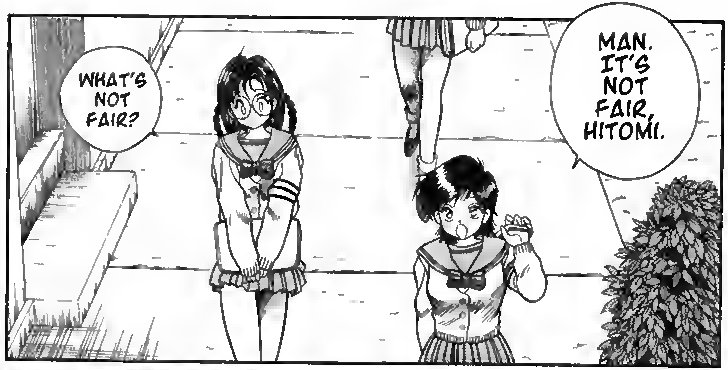
HE'S WATCHING AND... WAITING, I THINK.
AND THERE'S A MAN, TOO. A MAN IN THAT TEMPLE.


AT FIRST I SEE ONLY DARKNESS.
BUT THEN I LOOK UP AND SEE THE EARTH ABOVE ME
IT'S LIKE A MIRAGE... FLOATING AND INDEFINITE.
IT'S COLD WHEREVER I AM
I WATCH THE WIND BREAK AGAINST A CRUMBLING TEMPLE.

AND.. I WAKE UP. THAT'S IT.
Hitomi Hoshino (Age 16)
CUT IT OUT, YUKIKO!
THAT SUCKS, HITOMI. COULD YOU TELL IF HE WAS HOT?
JUST, YOU KNOW, IT STOPS RIGHT THERE.
I'VE HAD IT PLENTY OF TIMES.
YOU SAID YOU'VE HAD THIS DREAM BEFORE?
THAT'S QUITE A STORY.
AMANO-SENPAI!*
*SENPAI = JAPANESE TERM FOR UPPERCLASSMAN, SENIOR

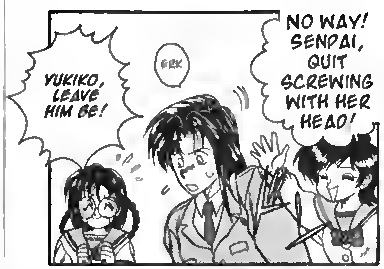
ANOTHER ENTERS. A YOUNG MAN WHOSE FACE I CAN'T SEE.
Theatre Practice Room
AND? AND? WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

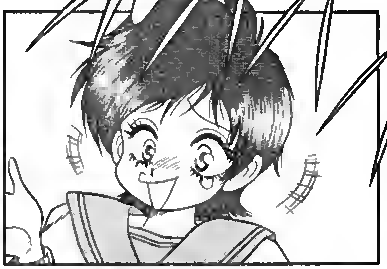

...IS A TALE FROM ANOTHER PLANET ALTOGETHER.
HMM...
SENPAI, DO YOU LIKE MYSTICISM? YOU DON'T SEEM THE TYPE
Y'KNOW HITOMI, YOU MAKE A STRONG CASE FOR THE EXISTENCE OF ESP.
BUT... BUT THE PLACE IN MY DREAM IS UNLIKE ANY-WHERE ON EARTH
PERHAPS BUT PERHAPS WHAT YOU'RE SEEING...

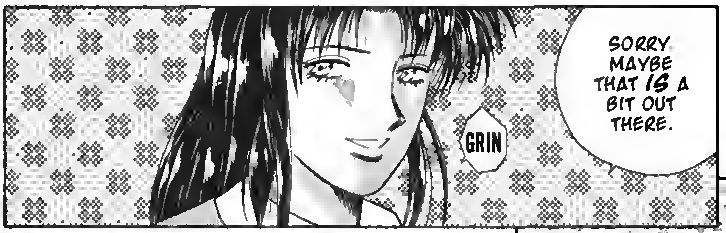

WHAT'S NOT FAIR?
MAN. IT'S NOT FAIR, HITOMI.

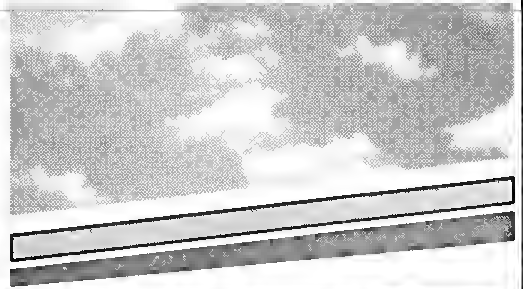
IF YOU WANNA SNAG HIM, YOU'D BETTER GET CRACKING.
HOW YOU'RE SO PERSONAL WITH AMANO-SENPAI. YOU LIKE HIM, RIGHT?

FINE! THEN HE'S MINE! THAT WORKS!
OH
UM, I'M N-NOT REALLY... Y'KNOW.
FEH! BABY.
LEAVE ME ALONE!
"HEY BABY, WHAT'S YOUR SIGN? I'LL TELL YOUR FORTUNE, SENPAI!!!!"

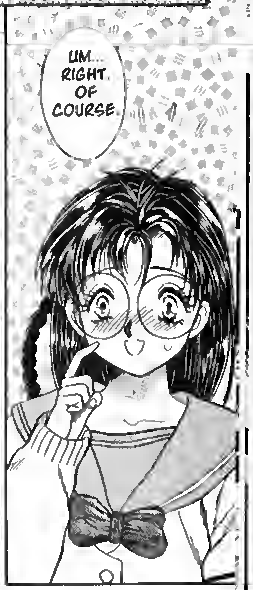

YUKIKO, LEAVE HIM BE!
GRK
NO WAY! SENPAI, QUIT SCREWING WITH HER HEAD!




GRIN
SORRY. MAYBE THAT IS A BIT OUT THERE.



DING DONG

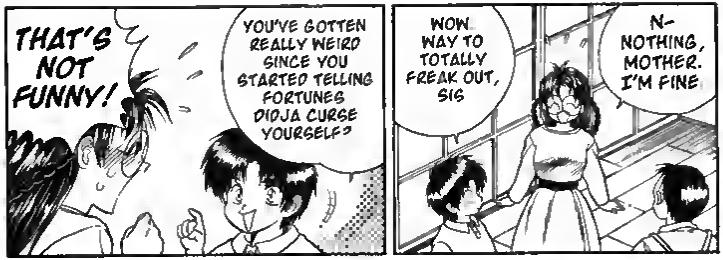

UM... RIGHT. OF COURSE.

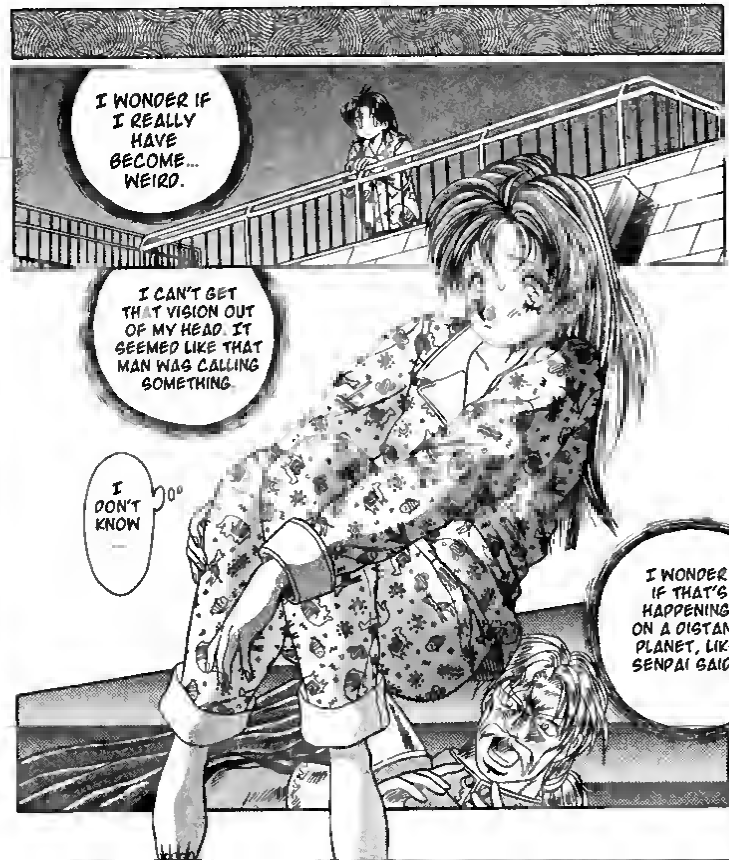
HITOMI?
WH-WHAT'S GOING ON?
HOROS AIRA DE FALA JEN ORA
AM I HALLU-CINATING?
HITOMI, WHAT'S WRONG?!
HOROS AIRA... DE FALA...
WHAT?

QUIET, YOU!
I GUESS THAT'S WHAT GIRLS DREAM ABOUT WHEN THEY NEED A MAN.
A DREAM ABOUT A PRINCE?
SOMEONE? WELL, AMANO-SENPAI'S REALLY COOL...
BUT HITOMI, YOU DO HAVE YOUR EYE ON SOMEONE, RIGHT?
BUT THAT DREAM PRINCE MAKES ME FEEL A LITTLE WOOZY.
HUH?!
YA CAN'T HAVE IT ALL!
BUT THAT'S STUPID. HE'S JUST A DREAM.

GRIN
OKAY! NOW TELL ME MY FORTUNE, LIKE YOU PROMISED.

I'D LIKE TO WATCH, IF THAT'S ALL RIGHT.
OH, I WOULDN'T SAY THAT.
YOU'RE PRETTY TALENTED!
HITOMI TELLS FORTUNES, TOO?
YEEK!
THADUMP
HEY, THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO IMPRESS HIM! GO FOR IT.
?
YUKIKO, NOW WHAT?!


THAT'S NOT FUNNY!
YOU'VE GOTTEN REALLY WEIRD SINCE YOU STARTED TELLING FORTUNES DIDJA CURSE YOURSELF?
WOW. WAY TO TOTALLY FREAK OUT, SIS
N-NOTHING, MOTHER. I'M FINE.


I WONDER IF I REALLY HAVE BECOME... WEIRD.
I CAN'T GET THAT VISION OUT OF MY HEAD. IT SEEMED LIKE THAT MAN WAS CALLING SOMETHING.
I DON'T KNOW
I WONDER IF THAT'S HAPPENING ON A DISTANT PLANET, LIKE SENPAI SAID?

..Horos
...
Jen...
Ora...
IT'S CALLING...
IT CAN'T BE. I--
ME? IT'S CALLING ME?!
HITOMI, WATCH OUT!
AAGH! IT'S A BAD ONE!

HOROS... AIRA DE FALA...
UH.. OUR WHAT?
ALL RIGHT, YUKIKO, AMANO-SENPAI, PLEASE TELL ME YOUR AFFINITY.
HEH HEH.
WHAT? OH NO, I'M JUST.. NEVER-MIND!
ARE YOU TRYING TO CAST SOMETHING?
IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN!
WHA?
HUH MY PENDULUM STOPPED MOVING.
FEELS LIKE AN EARTH-QUAKE.
EEEG!
YES
NO

IT COMES AT LAST!
HITOMI!
AMANO-SENPAI!
SOME-BODY, HELP!

NO! I DON'T-- DON'T TOUCH ME!
WE MUST FLEE, MISTRESS THIS TEMPLE IS NO MORE
WH-WHAT? WHO ARE YOU? WHAT HAPPENED?!
GET OUTTA THE WAY!
IT WON'T OPEN!
PUSH
PLEASE, YOU MUST STAY WITH ME!
HUH?
YEEE!

THEY'VE FINALLY SWITCHED PLACES... THE ENERGIST AND THE SOUL CONTAINED WITHIN

PSH. QUIT BEING SUCH A FOGIE.
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
NO WAY. H-HE'S SO SHORT.
IT IS DANGEROUS, MY PRINCE.
SUCK STEEL!
W-WOW

IT CAN'T BE.. THE PRINCE FROM MY DREAM?
PRINCE VAN!
ABOUT DAMN TIME. SHE OUGHTTA GET ESCAFLOWNE KICKING.
Prince Van Slanzar de Fanelia
YO, BALGUS. IS THIS GIRL THE ENERGIST WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR?

THANK GOD THIS PLANET HAS GLASSES
THIS IS THE ROYAL PALACE OF FANELIA, MILADY.
UM... WHERE AM I?
WHAT? YOU MEAN, LIKE THAT JEWEL?
I'M AFRAID I CAN'T DO THAT, MISTRESS YOUR BODY IS THE LEGENDARY ENERGIST WE REQUIRE
PLEASE, MR BALGUS I HAVE TO GET HOME!
CAPTAIN! WELCOME, SIR!
?
?
YOUR ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND THE WORDS OF THIS NATION PROVES YOU HAVE MERGED THE ENERGIST HAS INFUSED YOU WITH ITS POWERS, AND IT IS FOR THIS REASON YOU MUST REMAIN WITH US

THIS ISN'T A DREAM, ITS A BEGINNING... A TIME TO FIGHT.
A DREAM? SORRY, DOLL.
I LIKED THIS DREAM BEFORE THE KILLING!
WAAA!
THIS PLACE ...
THAT'S... THAT'S EARTH!
WHERE AM I?

DON'T TEMPT ME, BALGUS!
WE CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO POSSESS THE GUARDIAN DEITY ESCAFLOWNE UNTIL THEN.
THE TRIAL OF MANHOOD IS THE LAW OF THE KINGDOM. IT WAS THE DYING WISH OF HIS HIGHNESS, THE LATE KING, THAT YOU UNDERTAKE IT.
GROAN
FEH I'M SURROUNDED BY STIFF-SHIRT GEEZERS
NNGH
FINE I GET IT.
ESCA... PILOT WHAT?
AT ANY RATE, NOW THAT WE'VE GOT YOU, WE CAN FINALLY FIGHT PROPERLY. YOU AND I ARE GONNA PILOT ESCAFLOWNE, DOLL.
NO! LET GO!
WE'RE GOING.
IF WE SIT ON OUR ASSES AND WAIT FOR FORMALITY, ZAIBACH'LL KILL US ALL.
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE THRONE.
YEEK
MOVE IT, CHAMBER-LAIN!
YOU MUST NOT, MY PRINCE. YOU CANNOT BE THE ROYAL SUCCESSOR UNTIL YOU PASS THE TRIAL OF MANHOOD
THE SWORD IS THE SOUL OF A KNIGHT, PRINCE. DO NOT THRUST IT AIMLESSLY AS IF IT WERE A TOY.

AND QUIT CALLING ME DOLL! MY NAME'S HITOMI!
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, DOLL.
I SAID SHUT UP!
MR. BALGUS IS GONNA PUNISH YOU FOR THIS.
BALGUS DOESN'T HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND HE'S GOTTA PULL HIS HEAD OUT OF HIS ASS
WHAT WAS THAT?
BRAT!
I PLEAD, PEACEFUL SPRING OF UBOO...
IS THAT SINGING?
WHEN I PASS, PLEASE PURIFY MY SOUL.
SHE'S... SHE'S BEAUTIFUL.

I DON'T THINK THEY'RE GOING TO LET ME GO ANYTIME SOON
WHY DID ALL THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN?
WHAT IS THIS PLACE? AND WHAT'S AN "ESCAFLOWNE"?
AND... THAT DOESN'T MEAN I LEFT MY REAL BODY BACK ON EARTH, DOES IT?
THEY CALL ME THEIR "ENERGIST." BUT I DON'T SEE HOW I'M NOT MADE OF THAT JEWEL, AM I?
SHH! IT'S JUST ME C'MERE! WE'RE GONNA GO GET ESCAFLOWNE
WHO'S THERE?
JUST SHUT YOUR TRAP AND COME ON! WE HAVE WORK TO DO.
How can anyone be this hard headed?!
NO WAY! I'LL NEVER RIDE THAT THING WITH YOU! AND I-I THOUGHT YOU WERE FORBIDDEN, ANYWAY!

IF SUCH A THING WERE TO HAPPEN... I COULD NOT LIVE WITHOUT YOU.
TO LOSE ESCA-FLOWNE... MEANS TO LOSE YOU, MY LOVE.
F-FORGIVE ME, MOTHER.
SO YOU ARE THE LEGENDARY ENERGIST WELCOME, MY DEAR
EXCUSE ME
PLEASE, I WANT TO GO HOME! CAN YOU SEND ME BACK TO EARTH?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, VAN?
SHOW SOME RESPECT THAT'S QUEEN ESCALINA, MY MOTHER
WHO'S SHE?
I DON'T KNOW IF OUR OWN NATION WILL ALSO BE EMBROILED IN WAR.
I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERN. IN RECENT TIMES, THE ZAIBACH EMPIRE HAS USED UNKNOWN SCIENCES TO INVADE MANY KINGDOMS.
I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU FEEL THE NEED TO HURRY...
HOWEVER, ESCAFLOWNE'S POWER FAR SURPASSES THAT WHICH IS NEEDED FOR A SIMPLE ATTACK.
YOU COULD GET HURT.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER! PLEASE, YOU GOTTA UNDERSTAND

I-I'M SORRY, I CAN'T DO WHAT YOU ASK!
I'M JUST AN ORDINARY GIRL! I'M SURE I WAS BROUGHT HERE BY ACCIDENT!
I BEG YOU, TRUST THE ENERGIST.
PLEASE ENTRUST YOUR SOUL TO OUR GUARDIAN JEWEL.
Q-QUEEN ESCALINA.
I DON'T NEED PROTECTING, THANKS!
AND VAN, SWEETIE. YOU AND HITOMI MUST PROTECT EACH OTHER, OKAY?
AT THE MOMENT, THERE IS A SPACE-TIME STORM IN THE HEAVENS
AH, YOU MUST MEAN OUR BLUE STAR.
"EARTH"?
YOU ARE SHE WHO HAS BEEN CHOSEN
MISS HITOMI, THE ENERGIST HAS GRANTED YOU ITS POWER
STRANGELY, THIS STORM IS EMANATING THE IMAGE OF A PLANET FROM A DISTANT TIME AND PLACE. YOUR "EARTH" HAS NEVER APPEARED IN OUR SKY BEFORE.
THE DARK HAND OF ZAIBACH LOOMS EVER-PRESENT
I BEG OF YOU, BOND WITH ESCA-FLOWNE AND SAVE FANELIA.

?!
AAAH! LOOK OUT!
EVERYONE, FLEE THE SQUARE!
IS IT AN ATTACK FROM ZAIBACH?
IT-IT'S A DEMON! A VANISHING DEMON!
SINCE WHEN CAN THEIR ARMORED SUITS DISAPPEAR?!

SOON, PEOPLE OF FANELIA, OUR PRINCE WILL UNDERGO HIS TRIAL OF MANHOOD!
I CAN'T WAIT TO GET THIS CRAP OVER WITH I WANNA FIGHT.
BUT HOW? THIS IS ALL JUST GETTING WORSE BY THE MINUTE.
THESE PEOPLE REALLY BELIEVE IN THEIR GOD. VAN KEEPS TELLING ME I'LL PILOT IT...
MIGHTY ESCA-FLOWNE!
DELIVER US, ESCA-FLOWNE!

IT IS TIME...
ZAIBACH BASTARDS!
THEY DARE COME FORWARD AND ATTACK THE PALACE?
IT... IT'S HUGE!
AAAGH!
FIRE!

DO NOT BE DISSUADED, MY PRINCE ...
FOR THE KNIGHT THERE IS NO OTHER... PATH
ALL KNIGHTS APPROACH THEIR DEMISE WITH CALMNESS IN THEIR HEARTS
BALGUS!
DEAR GOD, MR. BALGUS!
DAMMIT! I KNEW THEY'D ATTACK WHEN WE LEAST EXPEC--
?!
NO!
PRINCE VAN!
BA... BALGUS!

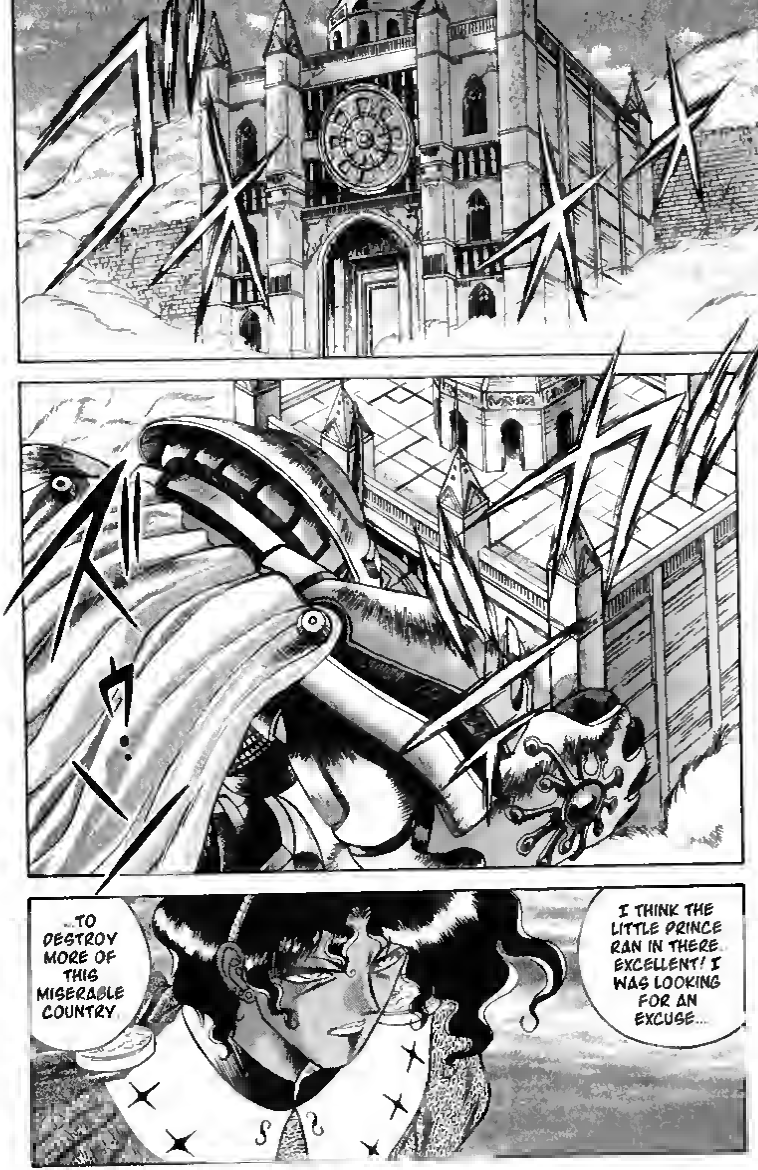
LITTLE BIRD, LITTLE BIRD.
...DEAR QUEEN ESCALINA.
MY SWEET LITTLE BIRD, LET ME HEAR YOUR LOVELY SINGING VOICE...
LET HER GO, YOU BASTARD!
HASTEN TO THE ESCAFLOWNE ...
MOTHER!

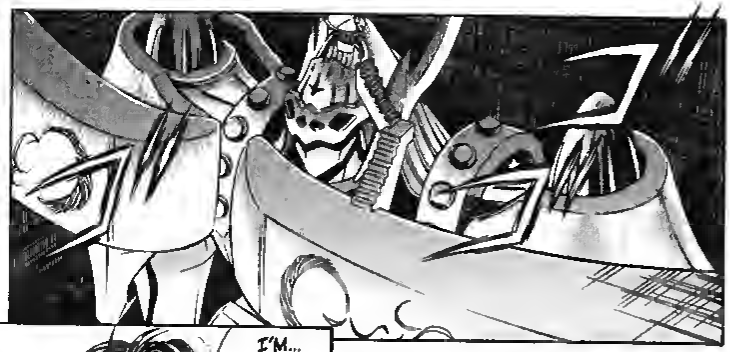
WE'RE WAKING ESCA-FLOWNE!
WHAT ?
COME ON, HITOMI! WE'RE GOING!
AAH!
WE CAN'T OUTRUN A GIANT ROBOT!
RUN, IDIOT! DO YOU WANNA DIE?!
DON'T WORRY, BOY. I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR MOTHER
YOU'RE PRINCE VAN? MY, MY, I EXPECTED SOMEONE... TALLER.
BESIDES, DILANDAU ALBATOU DOESN'T RECOGNIZE EMPTY CHALLENGES
YOU WOULD NEED A LADDER TO SAY ANYTHING TO MY FACE
GET THE HELL DOWN HERE AND SAY THAT TO MY FACE!
STOP IT, VAN! YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE!
THAT BASTARD! I'M GONNA JAM MY FOOT UP HIS PRETTY-BOY ASS!
AND NOW THAT YOU HAVE MY NAME, I WILL GRANT YOU A FINAL GIFT: PROLONGED DEATH
VAN, MY LOVE.. PROTECT YOUR HOMELAND.
MOTHER!

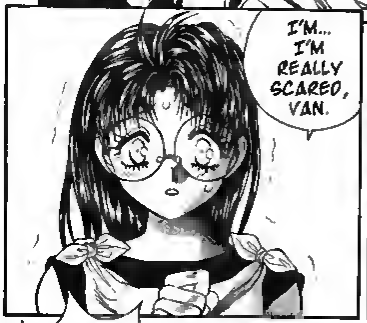
THAT'S THE ESCAFLOWNE?

SUCK IT, ZAIBACH!
BUT YOU SAID --
C'MERE AND HOLD STILL.
PUSH
THERE'S THE SHRINE!

..AS A PILE OF UGLY RUBBLE!
THIS LOVELY LITTLE SHRINE WILL LAST FOREVER...
Under-ground Shrine
THE CEILING'S CAVING IN!
IT'S THAT DILANDAU GUY. I CAN'T WAIT TO TEAR HIM A NEW ONE!
COME ON! IF WE GET INSIDE ESCAFLOWNE, WE CAN FIGHT BACK.


...TO DESTROY MORE OF THIS MISERABLE COUNTRY
I THINK THE LITTLE PRINCE RAN IN THERE. EXCELLENT! I WAS LOOKING FOR AN EXCUSE...




I'M... I'M REALLY SCARED, VAN.

WAIT, PLEASE

HUFF
HUFF

YOU'RE ESCAFLOWNE'S ENERGIST. YOUR POWER'S GONNA BRING IT TO LIFE. ONCE WE'RE INSIDE, WE'LL BE MUCH SAFER THAN WE ARE NOW.
YOU HAVE NO REASON TO WORRY. NONE!

SCARED?! WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR FEAR! SUCK IT UP, GIRL!

SIR BALGUS AND THE OTHERS... THEY'VE FALLEN, SIR.
WHERE'S THE ARMY? THE CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD?

GRAND CHAMBERLAIN DORKER, PLEASE TAKE COVER!
THAT MADMAN PLANS TO DESTROY OUR COUNTRY.

GOD HELP US.
PRINCE VAN.

OUR LIVES NOW REST WITH THE PRINCE AND ESCAFLOWNE.

F-FINE! JEEZ!
SO MOVE IT!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND? WE NEED YOU TO GET HER GOING!
WAIT! VAN, HANG ON.
STOP HESITATING AND PUT YOUR HANDS ON THIS PANEL.
DO IT, HITOMI!
THAT'S IT?
I'M TURNING INTO ENERGIST?! VAN, I DON'T--
M-MY HANDS!

DELIVER US, ESCA-FLOWNE!
HM?
WHAT?
NO, VAN! HELP!
CALM DOWN! JUST LET IT TAKE-- ESCAFLOWNE WON'T HURT YOU.
YOU'LL TURN RIGHT BACK TO NORMAL!
GOOD WORK. NOW LEAVE EVERYTHING TO ME.
HUFF
HUFF
NNN... I...

NOT BAD FOR A KID AND A CREAKY ROBOT.
CREAKY? SHUT THE HELL UP!

I SEE.. SO THAT ANTIQUE IS FANELIA'S GUARDIAN DEITY. NICE UNICORN HEAD...
ALL RIGHT, YOU SON OF A BITCH! GIVE ME BACK MY MOTHER!
IT'S YOUR HEAD YOU SHOULD BE WORRIED ABOUT! HAND HER OVER BEFORE I PUNCH A HOLE THROUGH IT!

UGH!
WE'RE TOAST IF WE DON'T FIND A WEAPON.
CRAP! ESCAFLOWNE'S FIGHTING UNARMED.
I CAN'T WIN BY DODGING!
HMPH. AND HERE I THOUGHT I'D HAVE A CHALLENGE.
ESCAFLOWNE IS WEAK, LIKE HER COUNTRY AND HER WORTHLESS PRINCE

OW! LITTLE BRAT!
MY SHOULDER JUST BRUISED. I THINK I CAN FEEL ESCAFLOWNE'S INJURIES!
OUCH! WHAT WAS...
GRAZE

flop
I CAN HEAR HER. SHE CALLS OUT TO ESCAFLOWNE. SHE...
THE ENERGIST ...
YEEGH!
SNIKT
THIS IS OVER, PRINCEY. I THINK IT'S TIME TO SAY YOUR FAREWELLS... TO LIFE.
WHAT'S WRONG? WE HAVE TO RUN!
VAN... MY BODY'S...
?
D-DAMN! HITOMI, BAIL!

THE ENERGIST SPOKE TO ME. SHE SAID TO PUSH THE SWITCH ON THE RIGHT.
OKAY. HERE GOES NOTHING
?!

GIMME BACK MY MOTHER!
MOTHER! NO!!!
HE DISAP-PEARED!
WHOA! WASN'T EXPECTING THAT.
LITTLE PUNK! WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?!
AARGH! NO!
HEY! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?!
GET BACK HERE AND FIGHT, JERK!
OUR LITTLE PARTY WILL HAVE TO WAIT, PRINCE.
MY MISSION WAS TO SEIZE THE QUEEN. MISSION ACCOMPLISHED. PLAYING WITH YOU WAS JUST A BONUS.

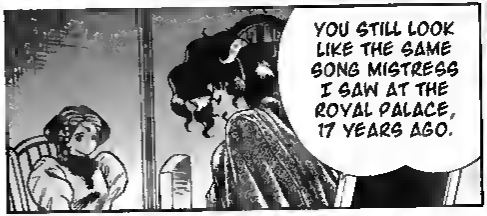
Zaibach Empire - Castle Dornkirk
FANELIA'S PRINCE LIVES BECAUSE OF YOUR SHORT-COMINGS?
HOW UNLIKE YOU, DILANDAU
HM
ARE YOU UPSET I RETURNED ALIVE, MARSHAL GELGURAN?
YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL, LITTLE SONGBIRD. AND YOU'RE MINE.

YOU ARE.. FROM FANELIA'S ROYAL FAMILY?

WHEN I WAS FIVE YEARS OLD, I KILLED MY MOTHER. I FLED THE COUNTRY AND WANDERED STRAIGHT INTO THE DEVELOPING ZAIBACH EMPIRE.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW PLEASED I AM TO MEET YOU, QUEEN ESCALINA
KNEEL
HM.

.....


YOU STILL LOOK LIKE THE SAME SONG MISTRESS I SAW AT THE ROYAL PALACE, 17 YEARS AGO.

YOUR BEAUTY HAUNTED MY DREAMS FOR YEARS.
AND YOUR VOICE... DIVINE. AS IF IT CAME FROM HEAVEN ITSELF.

I DON'T LIKE MY BODY BEING CHANGED! IT HURTS AND I FEEL VIOLATED.
I CAN'T DO THIS!
YOU IDIOT! WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?
I DON'T WANNA GO TO ZAIBACH! GO ON WITHOUT ME!
I'M SCARED... I'M REALLY SCARED, VAN!

Territory of Asturia, Neighbor of Fanelia
I'LL RESCUE MOTHER BEFORE THOSE BASTARDS LAY A HAND ON HER!
IF WE MAINTAIN THIS PACE, WE'LL REACH ZAIBACH IN NO TIME.
WHOA! HANDS BACK ON THE PANEL, HITOMI!
HEY! WHAT'S WRONG?
WE'RE SLOWING DOWN!
CRAP, WE'RE GONNA CRASH!

BALGUS... HE DIED TO PROTECT ME.
HE ALWAYS PROTECTED ME, THE OLD COOT.
.....
MMM...
SNIFF
ALL RIGHT, I GET IT. CUT THE WATERWORKS
FORGIVE ME, MOTHER. HOLD ON FOR JUST A LITTLE LONGER.
THANK GOD.
YOU'RE RIGHT. I'VE BEEN AN ASS. WE'LL GO BACK TO FANELIA. OKAY?

I ALREADY TOLD YOU, I CAN'T GO ON WITHOUT YOU. YOU'RE THE ENERGIST, SO DO YOUR JOB!
QUIT CRYING.
SOB
SOB
WHAT DID YOU SAY, BRAT?
YOU'RE SUCH A JERK, VAN!
YOU'RE NOT THINKING OF ME AT ALL!
I ALWAYS THOUGHT PRINCES WERE SUPPOSED TO BE SELFLESS, ALWAYS THINKING OF OTHERS.
I'M SURE YOU DIDN'T UNDERSTAND HOW BALGUS FELT, EITHER!

UM, YEAH. HE'S GONNA EAT US.
WHAT?!
GROWL
OH, GOD!

A WEIRD IMAGE JUST POPPED UP IN MY HEAD.
?!
I THINK SOMETHING'S COMING
THIS LOOKS A LOT LIKE THE VALLEY OF THE...
HANG ON, WHERE ARE WE?
GROWL
OH, NO!

WE'RE DEAD! TOTALLY, TOTALLY DEAD!
CRAP!
RAARR
WHAT THE HELL?!

CRUD! WE'RE MELTING!
ボタ ボタ

THAT THING SPITS ACID!
WELL, YEAH
THIS IS BAD.

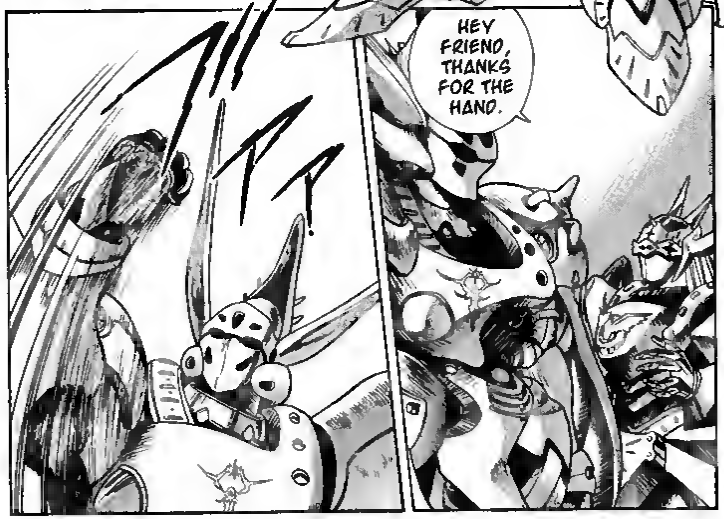
I-I DON'T KNOW HOW!
HITOMI, LISTEN, YOU HAVE TO MORPH!

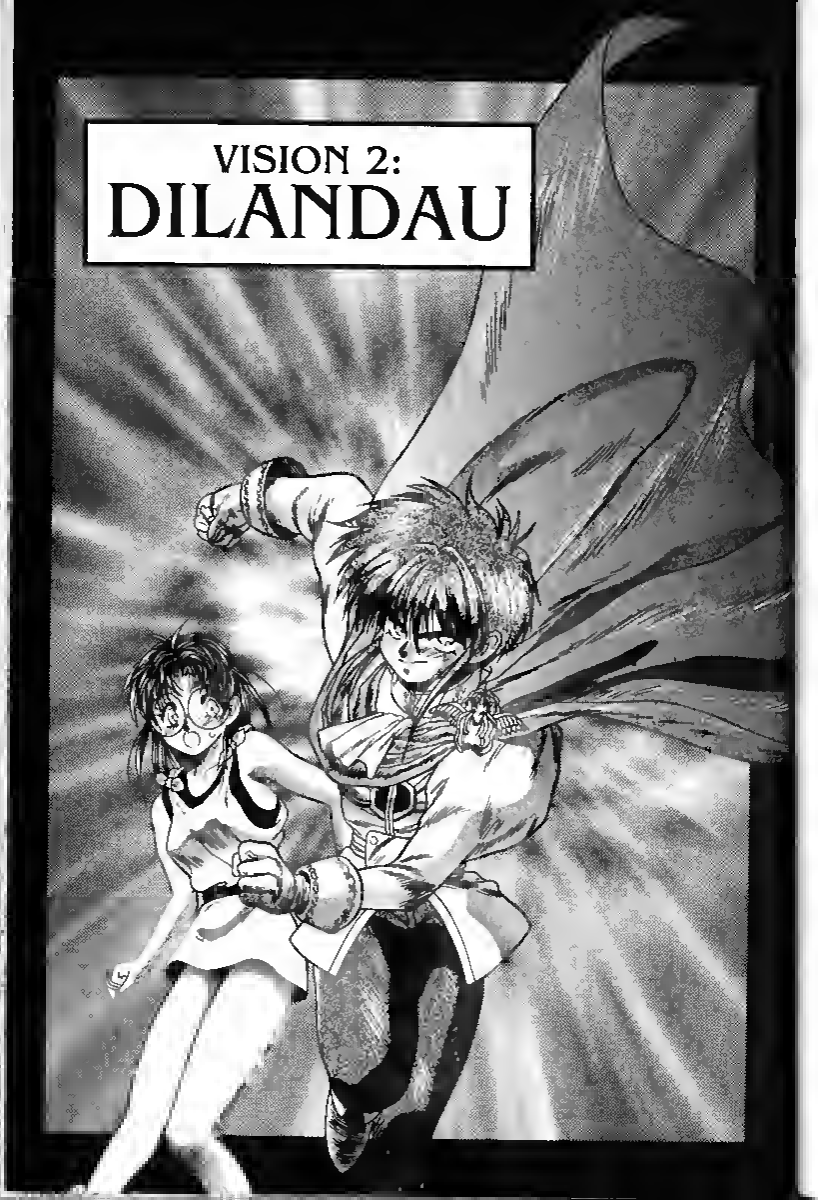
LAST TIME THE ENERGIST CALLED FROM INSIDE ME, IT HAPPENED ON ITS OWN...

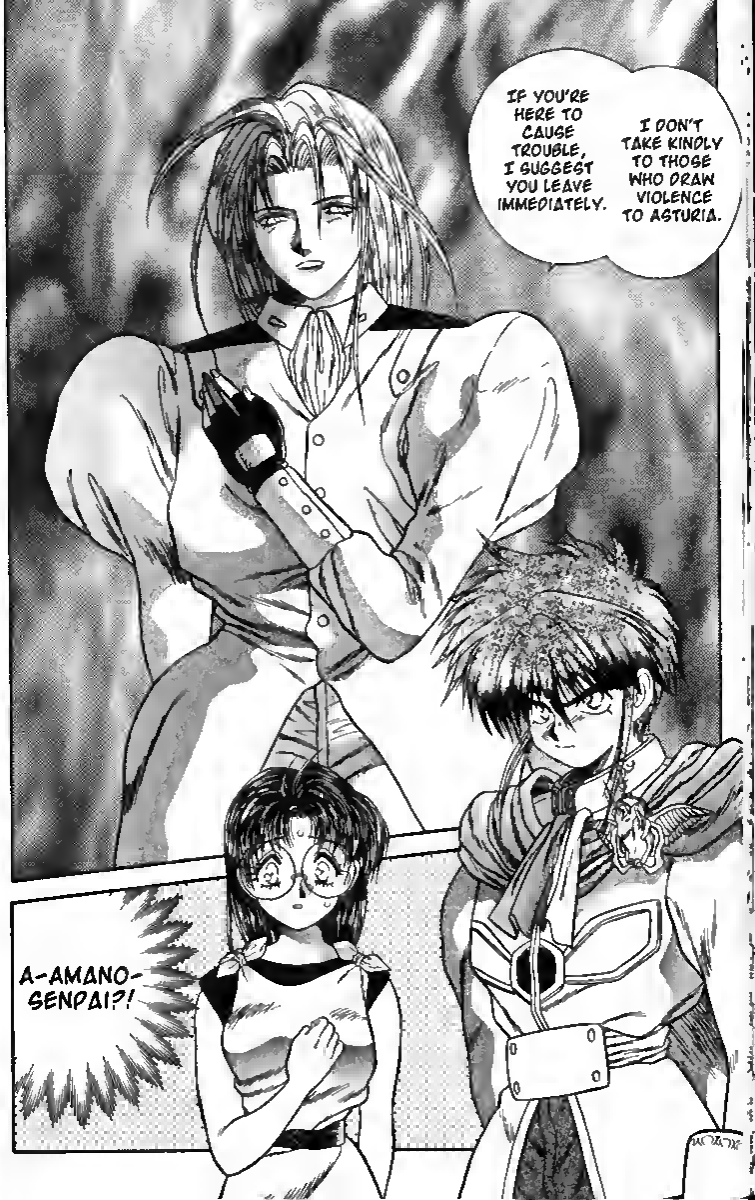
GRAAGH!
open
HEY! WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!

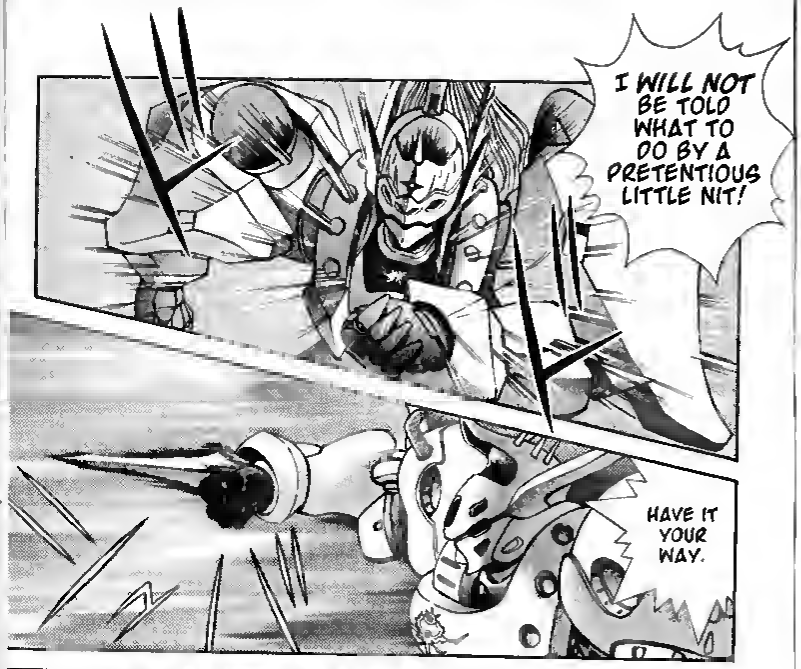
?!
?!

THAT GUY TOOK OUT A DRAGON IN ONE HIT.
AND HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A ZAIBACH SOLDIER...


HEY FRIEND, THANKS FOR THE HAND.


VISION 2:
DILANDAU

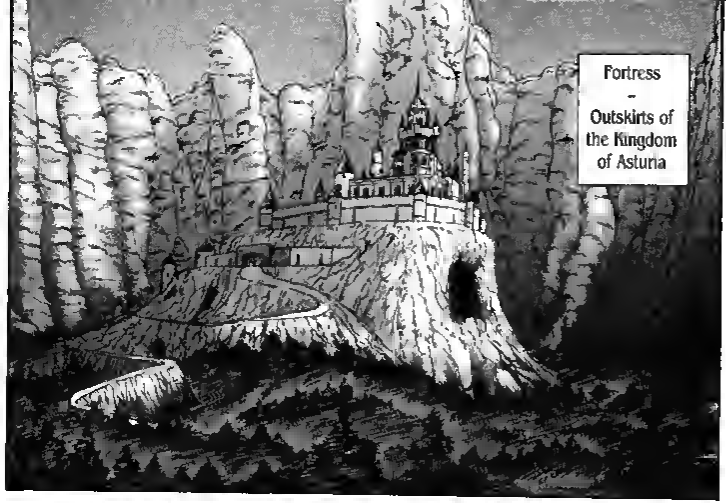

IF YOU'RE HERE TO CAUSE TROUBLE, I SUGGEST YOU LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.
I DON'T TAKE KINDLY TO THOSE WHO DRAW VIOLENCE TO ASTURIA.
A-AMANO-SENPAI?!

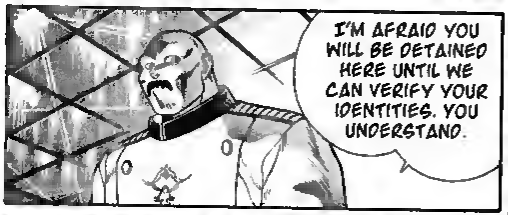

I WILL NOT BE TOLD WHAT TO DO BY A PRETENTIOUS LITTLE NIT!
HAVE IT YOUR WAY.

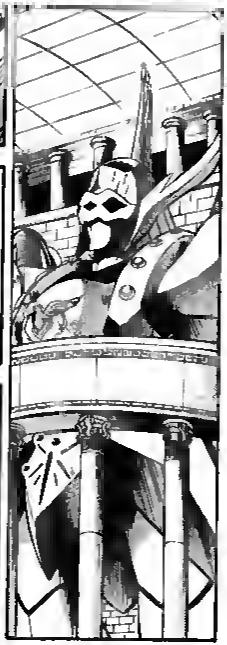
D... DAMN.
NOW, PERHAPS I DIDN'T MAKE MYSELF CLEAR THE FIRST TIME.
YAAGH!

I AM ALLEN SCHEZAR VIII, HEAD OF THE KNIGHTS CAELI OF THE ASTURIAN ROYAL HOUSE.

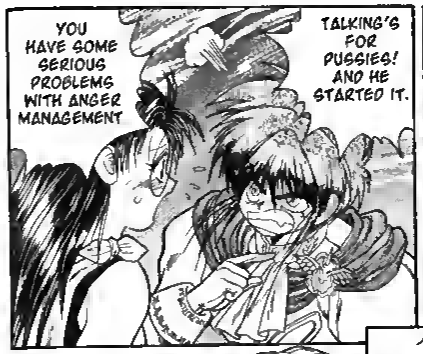
AND NOW THAT WE HAVE THAT OUT OF THE WAY, WE CAN TALK ABOUT YOUR SURRENDER.
VAN, WAIT! DON'T BE STUPID!
MR. ALLEN SCHEZAR VIII... BRING IT ON, YOU CANDY-ASS!
SURRENDER? DO YOU KNOW WHO YOU'RE TALKING TO?


Fortress
-
Outskirts of
the Kingdom
of Asturia


I'M AFRAID YOU WILL BE DETAINED HERE UNTIL WE CAN VERIFY YOUR IDENTITIES, YOU UNDERSTAND.

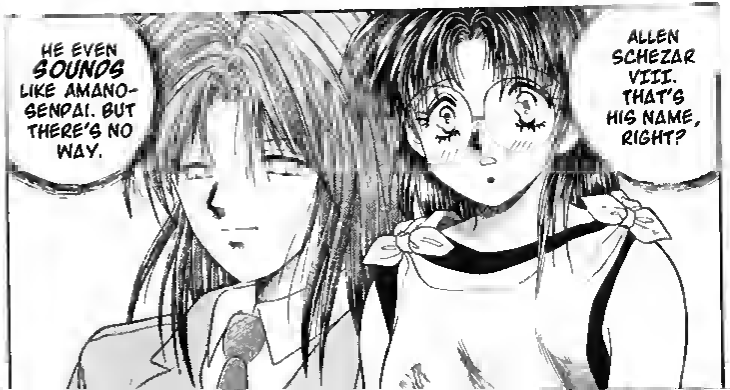


VAN, SETTLE DOWN.
LIKE HELL! GET THAT DRISS ALLEN BACK HERE!


YOU HAVE SOME SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH ANGER MANAGEMENT
TALKING'S FOR PUSSIES! AND HE STARTED IT.

CUT IT OUT, VAN! WE SHOULD TRY TALKING TO THIS GUY.

I DIDN'T REALIZE WELL, YOU'RE WELCOME TO COME TO MY FORTRESS IF YOU'D LIKE TO TELL YOUR STORY.
I'LL, UH, ANGER MANAGE YOUR FACE.
YEAH
OH... YOUR PILOT IS JUST A CHILD.


HE EVEN SOUNDS LIKE AMANO-SENDAI. BUT THERE'S NO WAY.
ALLEN SCHEZAR VIII. THAT'S HIS NAME, RIGHT?

GEEZ... I HAVEN'T BEEN HERE THAT LONG, BUT IT ALREADY FEELS LIKE MONTHS. VAN PICKS FIGHTS LIKE A KID. HIS ATTITUDE'S STARTING TO WEAR ME DOWN.

I WANNA GO HOME...
MOM, I MISS YOU. I MISS AMANO-SENPAI'S SWEET WORDS AND YUKIKO'S SPUNK.. I'M EVEN STARTING TO MISS MY BRATTY LITTLE BROTHER.

UM, VAN...
LET ME OUT, DAMNIT!
FRICKIN' NO GOOD SONS OF...

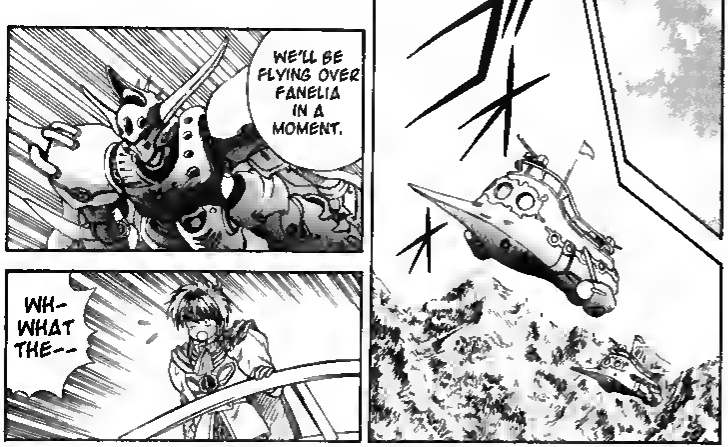
OH... YEAH.
TH-THERE'S ONLY ONE BED.

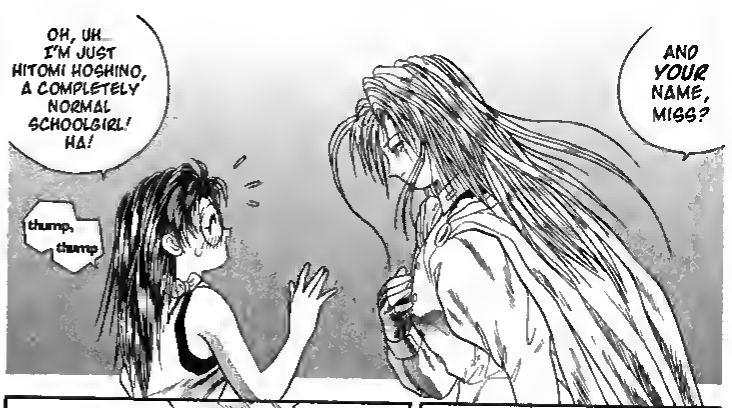
YOU HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO TACT! YOU GET THE FLOOR!
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?

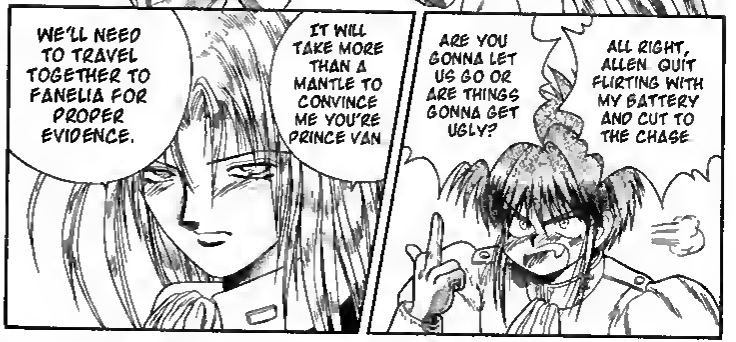
HUH!
BAH! I'M NOT SHARING A BED WITH A DAMN CHICK.

I'VE SEEN THE CREST ON YOUR MANTLE BEFORE
UNLESS THINGS HAVE DRASTICALLY CHANGED IN THE PAST FEW YEARS, THAT'S THE CREST OF THE FANELIAN ROYAL FAMILY.
BOY... ARE YOU PRINCE VAN OF FANELIA?
YEAH.
..BUT IT CAN'T BE HIM. ALLEN'S EYES ARE DISTANT AMANO-SENPAI WAS NEVER SO... FULL OF ANGST.
AND ALLEN'S BLONDE
HE DOES LOOK LIKE AMANO-SENPAI

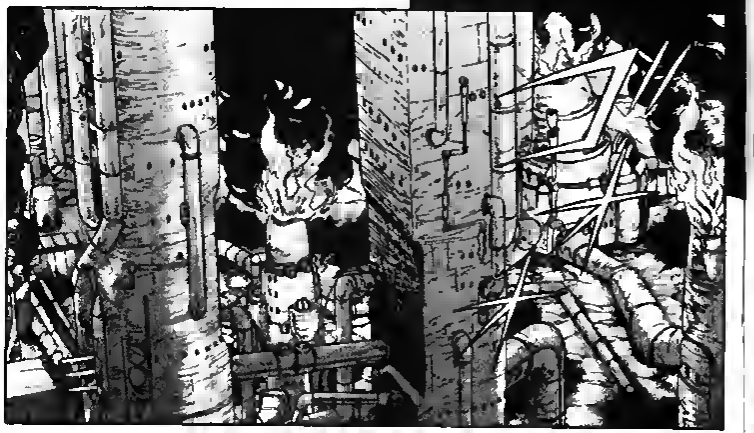
I'LL TELL YOU ONE THING...
..IF THEY THINK WE'LL SETTLE DOWN ONCE WE'VE INHALED SOME CRAPPY FOOD, THEY CAN SHOVE IT
SHUT IT!!
..AND YOU DEFINITELY SEEM TO BE ENJOYING THE FOOD.
COME ON, VAN. THIS ROOM'S REALLY NICE..
BECAUSE HE AT LEAST TREATS ME WITH RESPECT!
AND SPEAKING OF MEAT, I WANT TO KNOW WHY YOU SMACK ME AROUND, BUT STAND UP FOR THAT ALLEN JERK.
THESE ARE ALL PLOYS, HITOMI. THEY'RE TRYING TO GET OUR GUARD DOWN AND THEN IT'S BAM! DEAD MEAT.
ABOUT TIME!
SIR ALLEN CALLS FOR YOU TWO.
ガチャ


WE'LL BE FLYING OVER FANELIA IN A MOMENT.
WH-WHAT THE--


OH, UH... I'M JUST HITOMI HOSHINO, A COMPLETELY NORMAL SCHOOLGIRL! HA!
thump, thump
AND YOUR NAME, MISS?


WE'LL NEED TO TRAVEL TOGETHER TO FANELIA FOR PROPER EVIDENCE.
IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN A MANTLE TO CONVINCE ME YOU'RE PRINCE VAN
ARE YOU GONNA LET US GO OR ARE THINGS GONNA GET UGLY?
ALL RIGHT, ALLEN QUIT FLIRTING WITH MY BATTERY AND CUT TO THE CHASE

...
YOU KEEP YOUR DIRTY MITTS OFF MY PEOPLE'S GOD, OR I SWEAR THERE WON'T BE AN ALLEN IX.
YOUR MECHANIZED ARMOR WILL REMAIN HERE UNTIL WE RETURN.
WHAT?

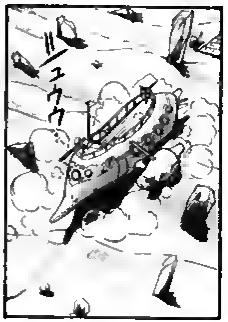


ABOUT WHAT?
I'D SAY IT'S TIME WE HAD A LITTLE CHAT.

LITTLE BIRD, LITTLE BIRD. LITTLE SONGBIRD QUEEN...

!!
HOW ABOUT THE SECRET OF ESCAFLOWNE?
WELL.. WHERE TO BEGIN?

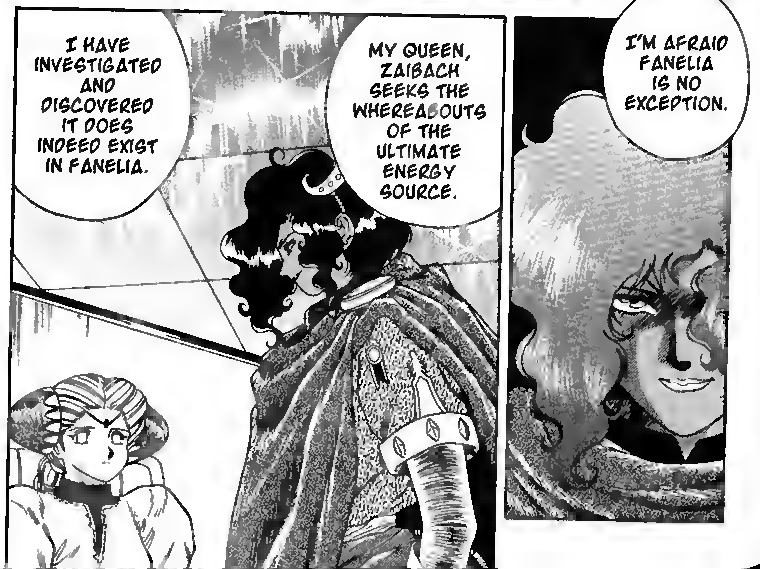
H-HOW COULD THE CASTLE BE IN RUINS?
IS EVERYONE... EVERYONE DEAD?!
SO MUCH ASH...



DID YOU SAY ZAIBACH?
!
GOOD GOD! WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT ZAIBACH WOULD GO SO FAR?
NO! PLEASE, NO!

EVEN NOW WE SEARCH THROUGH THIS PLANET'S ENERGY SOURCES FOR THE ONE THAT WILL MEET OUR NEEDS.
ZAIBACH'S TECHNOLOGICAL EMPIRE REQUIRES NOT ONLY SCIENTIFIC ADVANCEMENT, BUT THE MOST POWERFUL OF FUELS.

IS THAT YOUR REASON FOR KILLING INNOCENTS?
FUEL? IS THAT YOUR REASON FOR INVADING COUNTRIES?


I HAVE INVESTIGATED AND DISCOVERED IT DOES INDEED EXIST IN FANELIA.
MY QUEEN, ZAIBACH SEEKS THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE ULTIMATE ENERGY SOURCE.
I'M AFRAID FANELIA IS NO EXCEPTION.

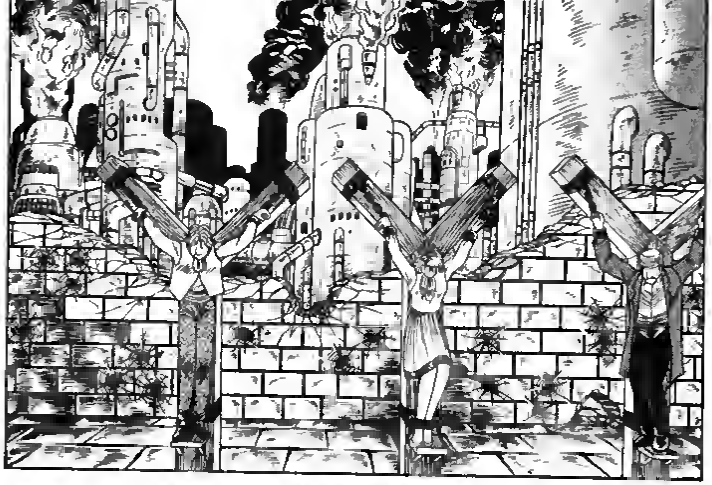
YOUR LEGENDARY ENERGIST, MAYBE? IT'S SAID THE FANELIAN ENERGIST HAS THE POWER TO RESHAPE THE WORLD
IT ALMOST TOOK ME DOWN. WHAT COULD POWER SUCH A BLAST?

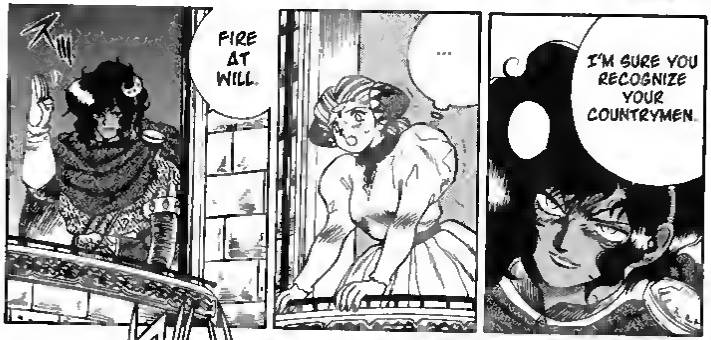
...

THAT CLUNKY PIECE OF GARBAGE HIT ME WITH A BLAST IN FANELIA.

..OF THE MYSTERIOUS ENERGY SLEEPING DEEP UNDERGROUND? A REMNANT OF AN ANCIENT CIVILIZATION?
DEAR QUEEN, YOU MUST BE WELL AWARE...

YOUR SILENCE IS MY PROOF.

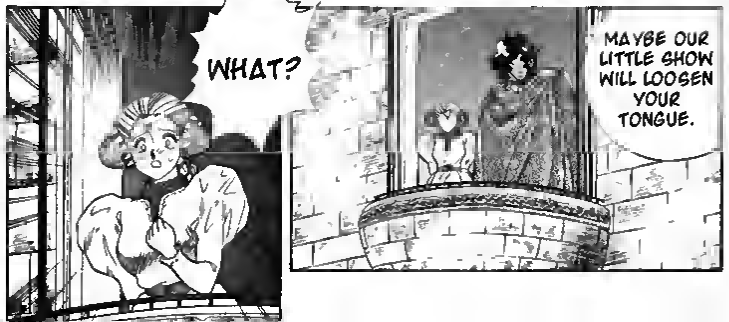



FIRE AT WILL.
...
I'M SURE YOU RECOGNIZE YOUR COUNTRYMEN.

Q-QUEEN ESCALINA?

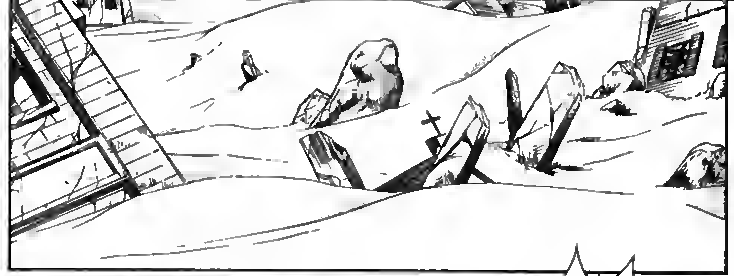
...I BELIEVE YOUR COUNTRY'S ENERGIST IS THE FRUIT OF THIS EXCEPTIONAL FUEL.
ALTHOUGH I CAN'T BE CERTAIN...

IT'S THROUGH THE POWER OF THIS FUEL THAT ESCAFLOWNE GETS ITS EXCEPTIONAL ABILITIES. AM I WRONG?
YOU'RE AS STUBBORN AS YOUR SON.
...


WHAT?
MAYBE OUR LITTLE SHOW WILL LOOSEN YOUR TONGUE.

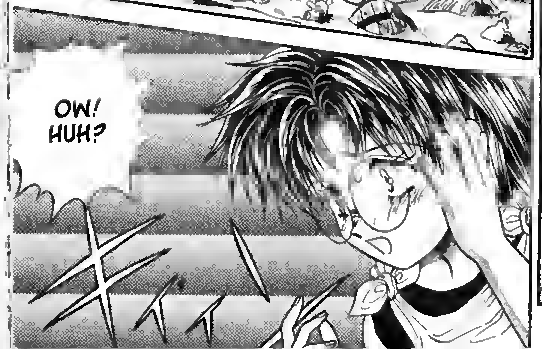
THESE TEARS AREN'T FOR MY BRAVE PEOPLE.
THEY'RE FOR YOU, DILANDAU. AND YOUR HEART OF ICE...
HUH?

NO! PLEASE, DON'T--
YOU POOR, DELICATE WOMAN.
THIS CAN ALL BE AVOIDED SO EASILY JUST TELL US THE SECRET OF THE ENERGIST, MY DEAR
EVERY DAY YOU DON'T TALK, THREE MORE PANELIANS WILL DIE. HOW'S THAT FOR INCENTIVE?

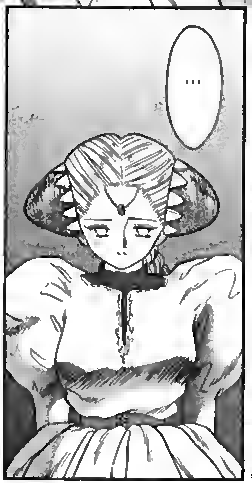


HELLO! IS ANYONE HERE?!

IT WAS SUCH A BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY.
AND VAN...

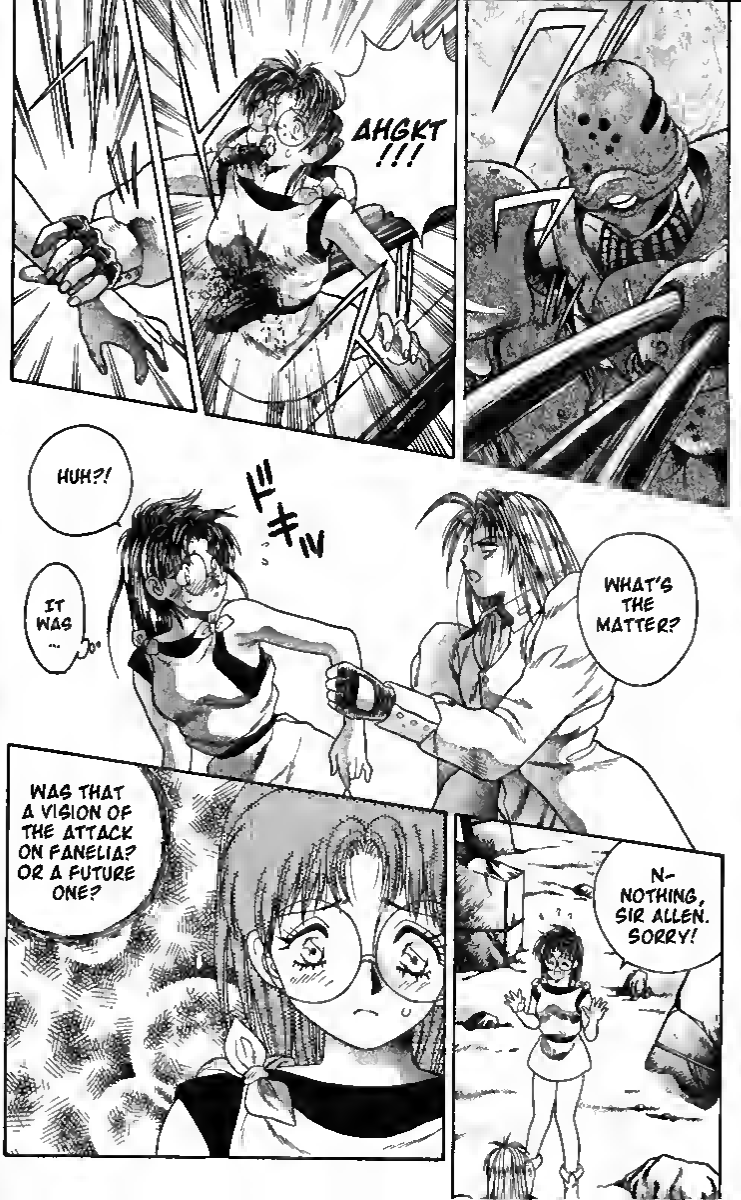

OW! HUH?

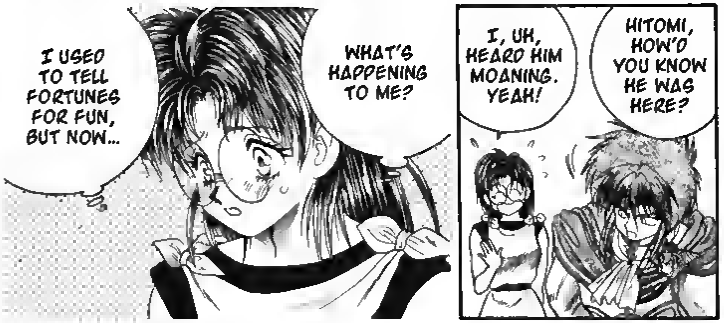
LET'S GET SOMETHING STRAIGHT!
THAT'S INSANE!
HA! YOU FEEL SORRY FOR ME?

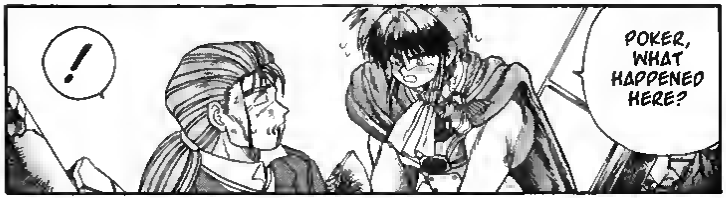

...

YOU ARE ALIVE ONLY AS LONG AS I WANT YOU TO BE. DO NOT FORGET THAT!

パ


AHGKT !!!
HUH?!
IT WAS ...
ドキッ
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
WAS THAT A VISION OF THE ATTACK ON FANELIA? OR A FUTURE ONE?
N- NOTHING, SIR ALLEN. SORRY!


I USED TO TELL FORTUNES FOR FUN, BUT NOW...
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?
I, UH, HEARD HIM MOANING. YEAH!
HITOMI, HOW'D YOU KNOW HE WAS HERE?


!
POKER, WHAT HAPPENED HERE?

THOSE WHO WEREN'T KILLED BY THE VOLCANIC ERUPTION WERE TAKEN TO ZAIBACH. WE STOOD NO CHANCE.
GOD DAMMIT! I SHOULD'VE BEEN HERE!
ZAIBACH WAS THE CAUSE OF THE ERUPTION SOMEHOW

CHECK THAT RUBBLE.
?
VAN, COME HERE!
NO! THERE IT IS AGAIN... THE PAST.
GRAND CHAMBERLAIN POKER!
UH...
UHHN...
JUST DO IT, OKAY?
HUH? WHY?
IT WAS THE PAST. HOW STRANGE..
P-PRINCE VAN. YOU'RE SAFE.
YOU'RE ALIVE! ARE YOU OKAY?!

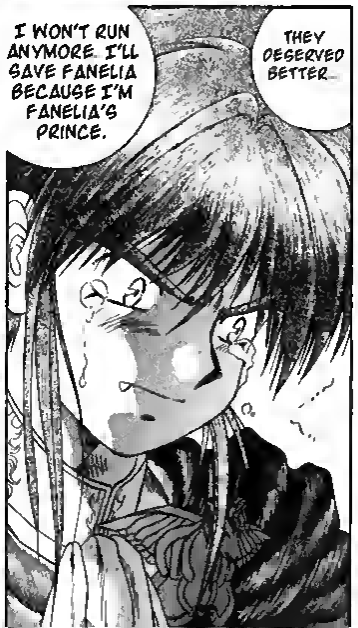
HMM ...
VAN!
I DON'T NEED ANYONE'S HELP. PARTICULARLY NOT YOURS, ASSHOLE.
PRINCE VAN AND LADY HITOMI WILL RETURN WITH US TO ASTURIA!
FANELIA.. I'LL COME BACK FOR YOU. I'LL RESTORE YOU AGAIN, I SWEAR!
THIS IS NOT YOUR FAULT, MY PRINCE.
NGH
I PLAYED RIGHT INTO THEIR TRAP.
THUMP
THIS IS ALL BECAUSE I LEFT FANELIA TO CHASE AFTER MOTHER
PRINCE VAN OF FANELIA, WILL YOU COME WITH ME?
I'M OFFERING YOU MY HELP.
WHAT?

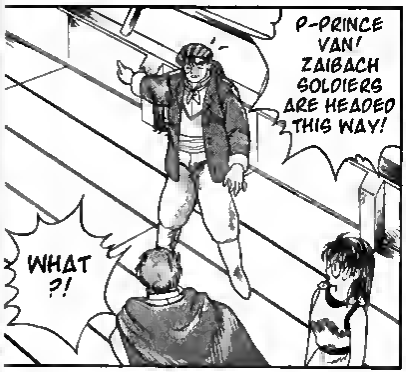
I LOST MY MOTHER AND MY HOMELAND AND I COULDN'T DO A DAMN THING ABOUT IT!
I'M NOTHING BUT A STUPID, HARD-HEADED BRAT. I'VE FAILED MY COUNTRY, MY PEOPLE...
I'M WORTHLESS. COMPLETELY, UTTERLY WORTHLESS.
WOW.
IT SHOULD BE ME UNDER THE RUBBLE!

SHUT UP AND GET LOST!
I JUST WANTED TO UH... SAY I WAS SORRY ABOUT--
WHAT?
UM, VAN?
JUST NOTHING! SHOVE YOUR DAMN SYMPATHY!
HEY, I WAS JUST--
W-WAIT.. YOU'RE AGREEING WITH SOMETHING?
YOU'RE RIGHT. ALL OF YOU ARE RIGHT.
STOP PUSHING ME AWAY, VAN!
POUT

BUT IT WAS ALL CRAP. WHAT GETS ME IS HOW NICE EVERYONE AT THE PALACE WAS ABOUT IT. THEY DIDN'T CARE THAT I HATED MY POSITION AND TOLD THEM SO AT EVERY AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITY.
I WAS AN IDIOT. I NEVER REALIZED IT WAS BECAUSE THEY LOVED ME, EVEN IF I DID HATE BEING ROYALTY.
I THOUGHT IT WAS BECAUSE THEY WANTED TO GET ON MY GOOD SIDE... TO LURE ME INTO MY POSITION.

PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE!
OH, VAN...


I WON'T RUN ANYMORE. I'LL SAVE FANELIA BECAUSE I'M FANELIA'S PRINCE.
THEY DESERVED BETTER...

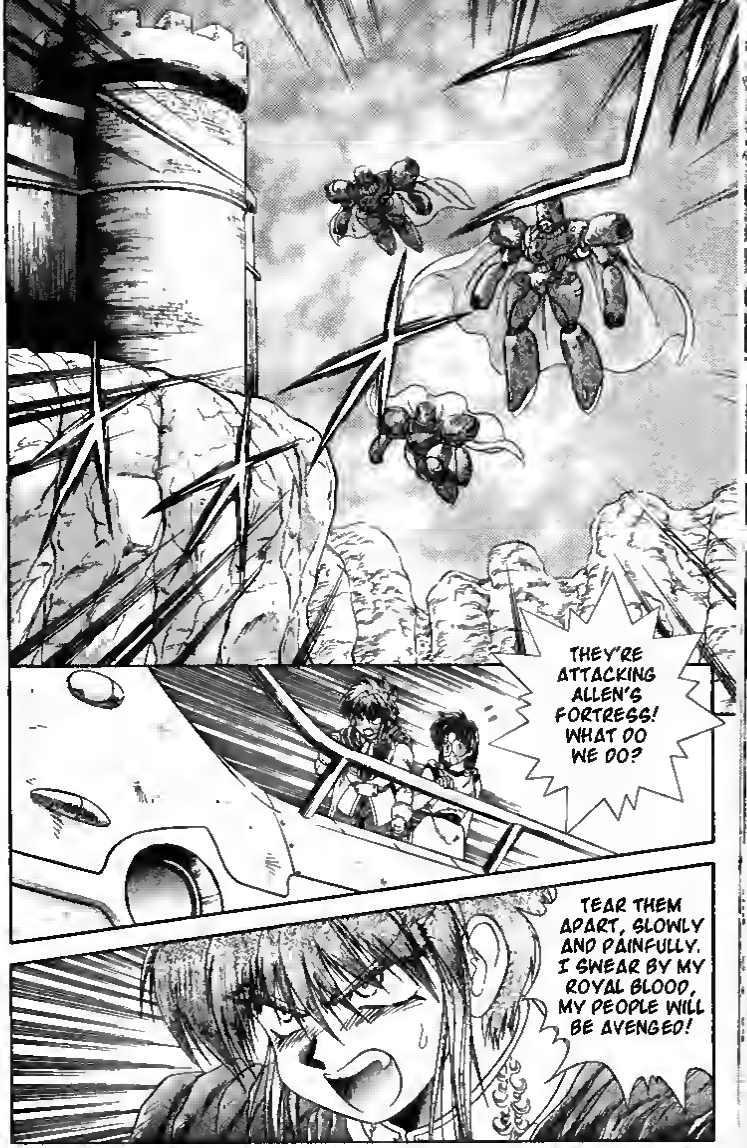

P-PRINCE VAN! ZAIBACH SOLDIERS ARE HEADED THIS WAY!
WHAT?!

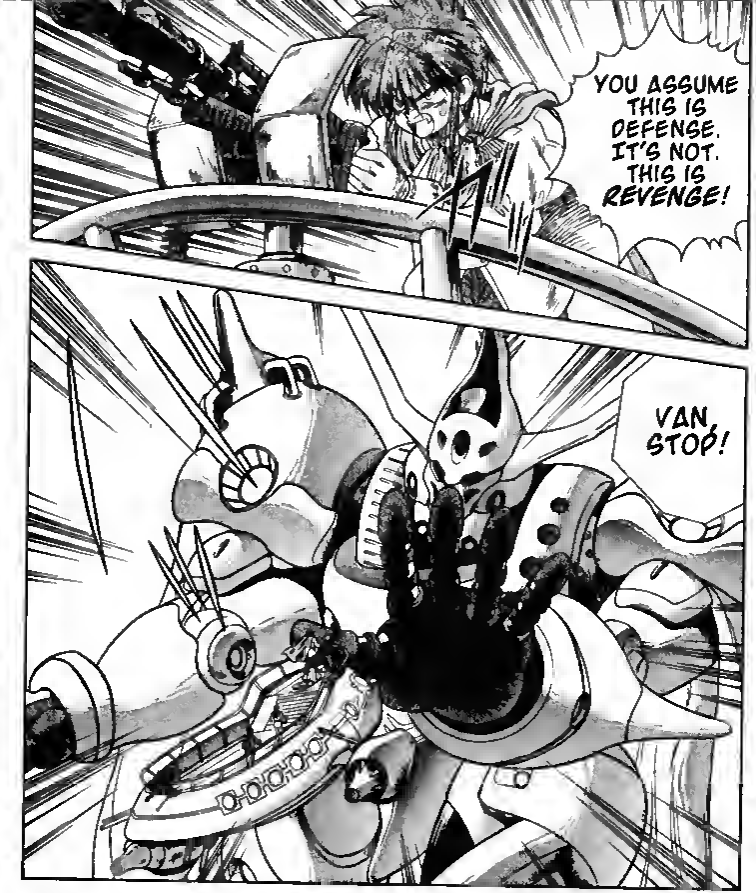
VAN, YOU SHOULDN'T BLAME YOURSELF
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
WHY NOT?

...
YES, IT IS. YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. I ALLOWED THIS TO HAPPEN.

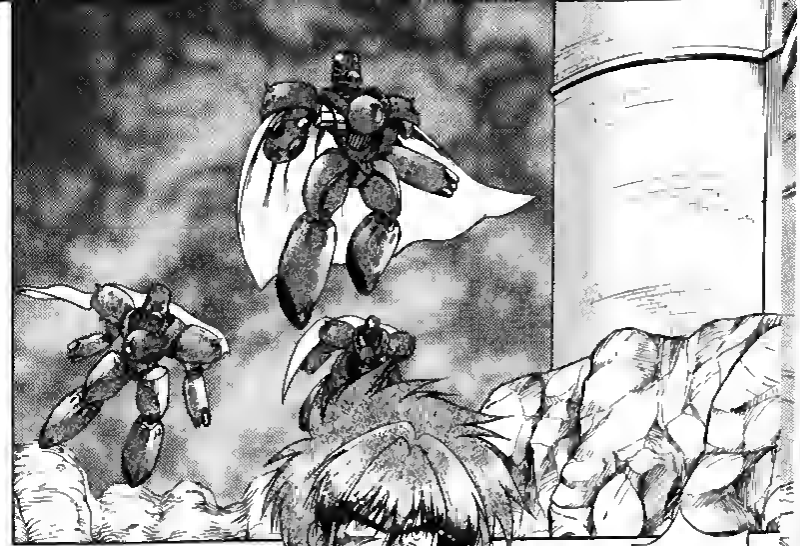
I NEVER WANTED TO BE PRINCE. I TRIED TO RUN AWAY FROM IT, LOSING MYSELF IN THE COMFORTS OF THE STREET AND PRETENDING I DIDN'T HAVE THE WEIGHT OF A KINGDOM ON MY SHOULDERS

VISION 3:
BATTLE IN ASTURIA


THEY'RE ATTACKING ALLEN'S FORTRESS! WHAT DO WE DO?
TEAR THEM APART, SLOWLY AND PAINFULLY. I SWEAR BY MY ROYAL BLOOD, MY PEOPLE WILL BE AVENGED!


YOU ASSUME THIS IS DEFENSE. IT'S NOT. THIS IS REVENGE!
VAN, STOP!

ALLEN'S SO DEFENSIVE. IS HE HIDING SOMETHING?
HOW WEIRD.
GET OUTTA MY WAY!



KILLING FANELIANS.. NOT A GOOD IDEA.
ZAIBACH BASTARDS... LET ME GIVE YOU SOME ADVICE.

I DON'T THINK THEY INTEND TO ATTACK. THEY COULDN'T AT THAT SPEED.
SETTLE DOWN, VAN.

GOOD. KEEP AN EYE ON HIM.
CONFINED, SIR
WHERE IS PRINCE VAN?
I'M WELL AWARE, THANK YOU.
YOU DO REALIZE HANDING OVER PRINCE VAN AND LADY HITOMI WILL KEEP DILANDAU FROM--

LET ME OUT! LET ME OUT! LET ME OUT! LET ME OUT!
NOT AGAIN !!
WHO CARES?! THEY'RE NOT LEAVING UNTIL I MAKE THEM EAT THEIR DAMN DISAPPEARING ROBOTS!
MAYBE ZAIBACH REALLY DIDN'T COME TO ATTACK.
A, UH. SKILL I PICKED UP.
pick pick
IS THAT WIRE?
QUIT HOLDING BACK AND OPEN THE DOOR, POKER.
AH, WELL... ALL RIGHT.
HM?
YOU DON'T SAY...
WHEN PRINCE VAN WAS LITTLE, HE OFTEN LOCKED ME INTO THE MOST UNPLEASANT OF PLACES.
HEH.

HUH?
ALLEN SCHEZAR.. IT'S BEEN AWHILE.
THAT VOICE.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I'M GLAD YOU REMEMBER OUR EMPIRE HAS A PEACE TREATY WITH YOUR NATION.
THAT'S DILANDAU!

BUT HOW WILL WE EVER FIND HER IN THIS HUGE FORTRESS?
WE GRAB ESCAFLOWNE AND KICK SOME ZAIBACH ASS!
VERY, ER. IMPRESSIVE NOW WHAT?
NOT BAD, HUH? HE DION'T EVEN FEEL IT.
WAIT A SEC.
IT'S.. UNDER THE SOUTH TOWER.
I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE.
DOES THE ENERGIST MAKE YOU PSYCHIC OR SOMETHING?
It's like when she found Power.
WHA? HOW DO YOU KNOW?

VAN!
?!
DILANDAU, YOU BASTARD!
GIMME BACK MY MOTHER!
VAN?!
THERE YOU ARE, YOU LITTLE SNOT!

ALTHOUGH IT WOULD GIVE ME GREAT PERSONAL PLEASURE TO DESTROY THIS DUMP YOU CALL HOME...
HE'S NOT REALLY GONNA
CRAP.
...I COULD BE PERSUADED TO LEAVE YOU IN PEACE. JUST HAND OVER ANY INFORMATION YOU MIGHT HAVE ABOUT THE MISSING FANELIAN PRINCE.
SO? WHAT WILL IT BE?
...
ALLEN, YOU SON OF A BITCH. YOU'RE A DAMN ZAIBACH SYMPATHIZER?

ALREADY?! YOU KNOW, YOU'RE REALLY QUITE BAD
OH, DON'T WORRY. THE LITTLE SONG-BIRD IS STILL ALIVE IN HORRIBLE, EXCRUCIATING PAIN, BUT STILL ALIVE
WHAT'VE YOU DONE WITH MY MOTHER?
YOU BASTARD. I'M GOING TO TEAR YOUR HEART OUT WITH MY TEETH!
VAN, NO!
TRY DOING THAT WITH NO HEAD.
FINE. I'VE NEVER LIKED YOU, ALLEN. I LOOK FORWARD TO SLITTING YOUR THROAT.
SILENT, ARE WE?
YOU WERE HIDING HIM HERE? THAT WAS STUPID, ALLEN, EVEN FOR YOU!
...
BUT YOU'RE FIRST, LITTLE VAN!
B-BITE ME!
WHAT'S WRONG? WHERE ARE YOUR CUTE THREATS NOW?!

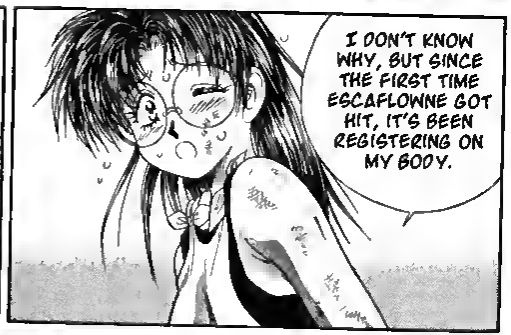
IT'S A DAMN SHAME IT WILL ONLY EXIST IN HISTORY BOOKS FROM NOW ON.
RIGHT.
GO, VAN. GO TO ESCAFLOWNE.
THAT DILANDAU'LL HAVE A HARD TIME LAUGHING WITH MY FIST DOWN HIS THROAT!
Y-YEAH
LET'S GO, HITOMI.
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
THOUGH IT'S A REAL PITY ABOUT THIS PLACE.
HEH! VERY WELL.
I CHANGED MY MIND. GET OUT OF HERE WHILE YOU'RE STILL ABLE TO WALK.
ALLEN ?!

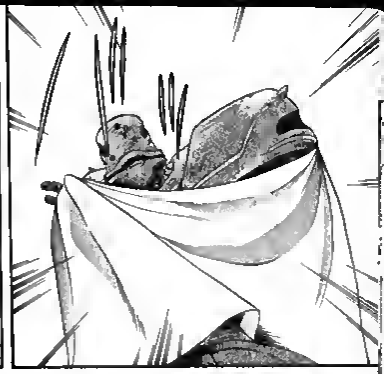
DID IT LOOK ANYTHING LIKE THIS?!!
NOT BAD, NOT BAD. BUT...
AAGH!
...IT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH!

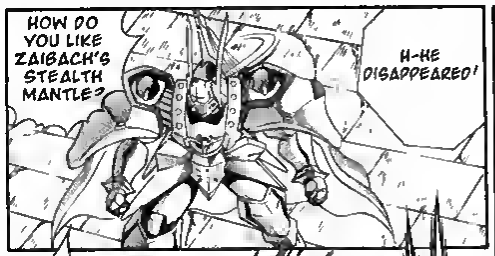
WHERE ARE YOU, DILANDAU?
YOU GOT IT, THIMBLE-HEAD!
HUH?!! YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME! YOU'RE GONNA TAKE ME ON?
REALLY?!!
YOUR COUNTRY FELL LIKE A SACK OF BRICKS, BOY.
HEH. SO YOU'RE THAT HOT-HEADED FANELIAN PRINCE?

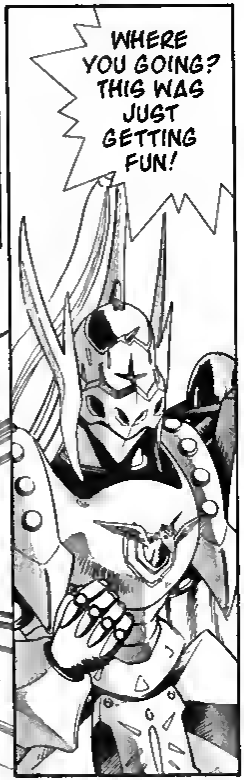
NNGH!
WHAT'S WRONG? WHERE'D THOSE BRUISES COME FROM?!
GG
AAH
OW NN

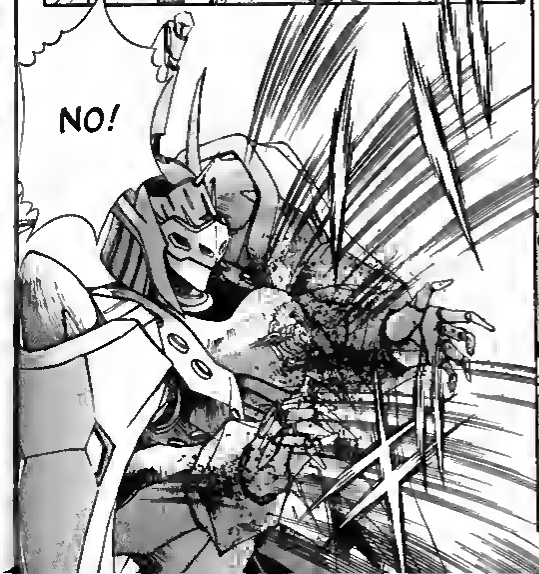
YOU'RE KIDDING ME.

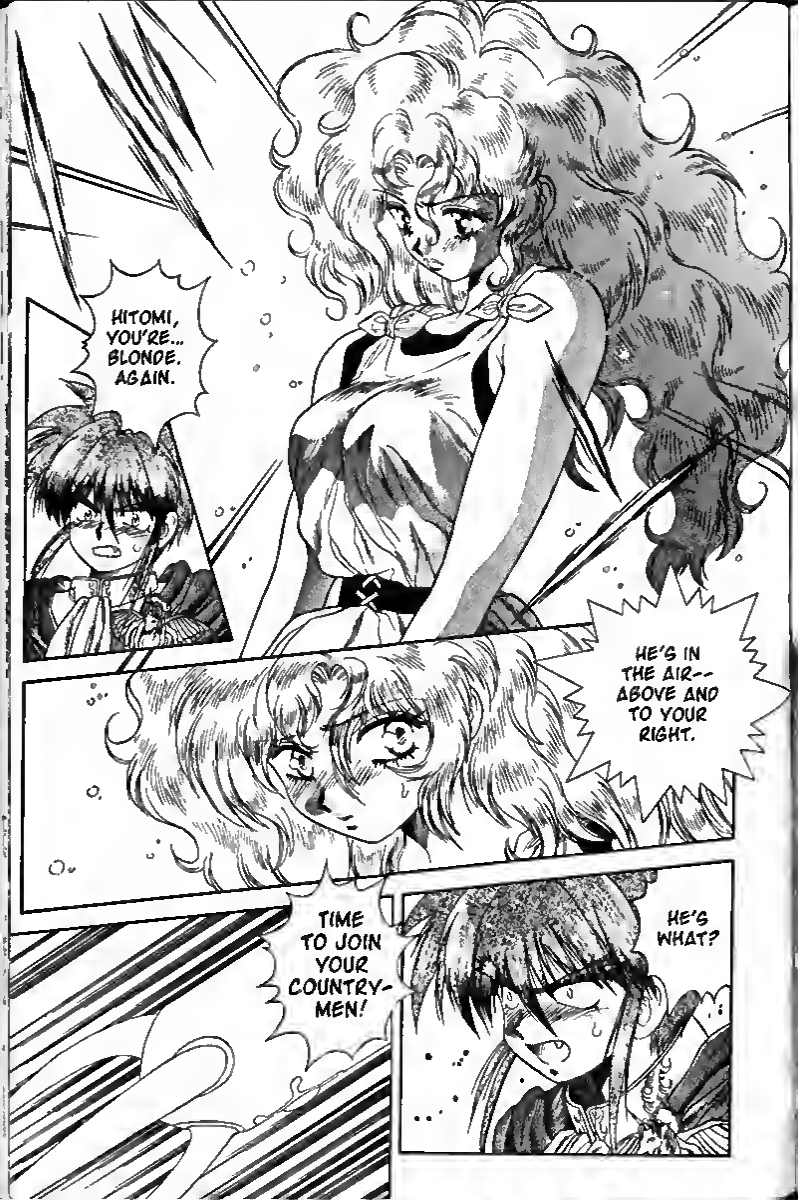

I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT SINCE THE FIRST TIME ESCAFLOWNE GOT HIT, IT'S BEEN REGISTERING ON MY BODY.




HOW DO YOU LIKE ZAIBACH'S STEALTH MANTLE?
H-HE DISAPPEARED!


WHERE YOU GOING? THIS WAS JUST GETTING FUN!


NO!


HITOMI, YOU'RE... BLONDE. AGAIN.
HE'S IN THE AIR-- ABOVE AND TO YOUR RIGHT.
TIME TO JOIN YOUR COUNTRY-MEN!
HE'S WHAT?

OW! DAMMIT!
I'M NOT DONE YET!
NO.
SWIFT
THIS IS IT, KID.
NO! I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS! THIS CAN'T BE HOW IT ENDS!
IT'S HAPPENING A-AGAIN!
HUH?

SO THAT'S RIGHT... HERE!
WH- WHAT? HOW DID HE--
ENJOY YOUR ONE-WAY TICKET TO HELL!

HOW?!
THAT IDIOTIC PRINCE SAW THROUGH A PREMIUM STEALTH MANTLE?
...
!!
I ENJOY PUNISHING ENEMIES OF THE EMPIRE.
LORD DILANDAU, PLEASE ALLOW ME.
WELL, WELL... DRAGGED SCHERAZADE OUT OF THE SHED, ALLEN?

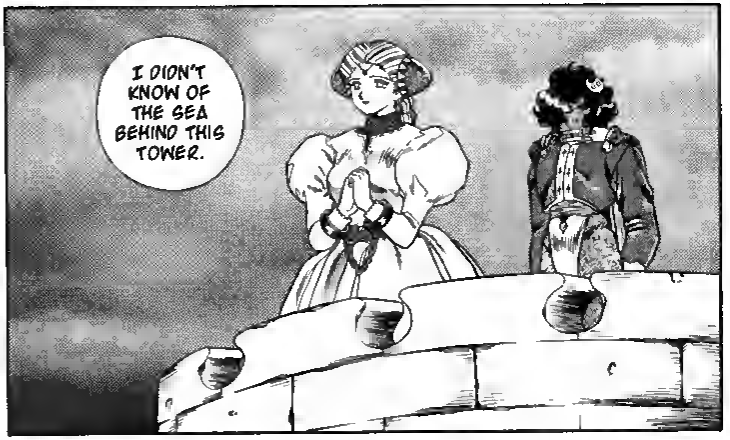
NO! IMPOSSI --

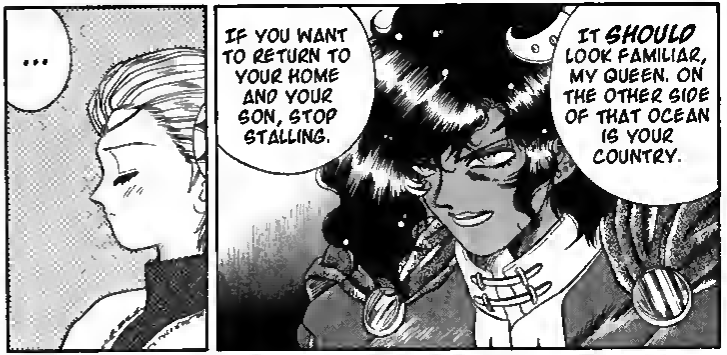
HMPH
...THIS WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL NEXT TIME.
SINCE MY BETTER KNIGHT MACHINE'S IN THE SHOP...
HE'S MOVING AWAY. HE'LL SOON BE OUT OF RANGE.
HITOMI! WHERE'D DILANDAU GO?
HANG ON, MOTHER. I'LL FIND YOU YET!
DAMMIT! THAT PRICK PLAYS DIRTY
WHAT WAS THAT?!
FODDER.
SINGLE-HIT KILLS. YOU NEVER CHANGE, ALLEN

WE'VE JUST OPENED THE FLOODGATES AND CAN NOW EXPECT A LONG, PAINFUL WAR.
VAN, LISTEN...
THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING.
I KNOW. I'M READY
I'LL GET MY MOTHER BACK.
NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES AND HOW MUCH BLOOD IS SPILLED.. I WILL GET HER BACK.

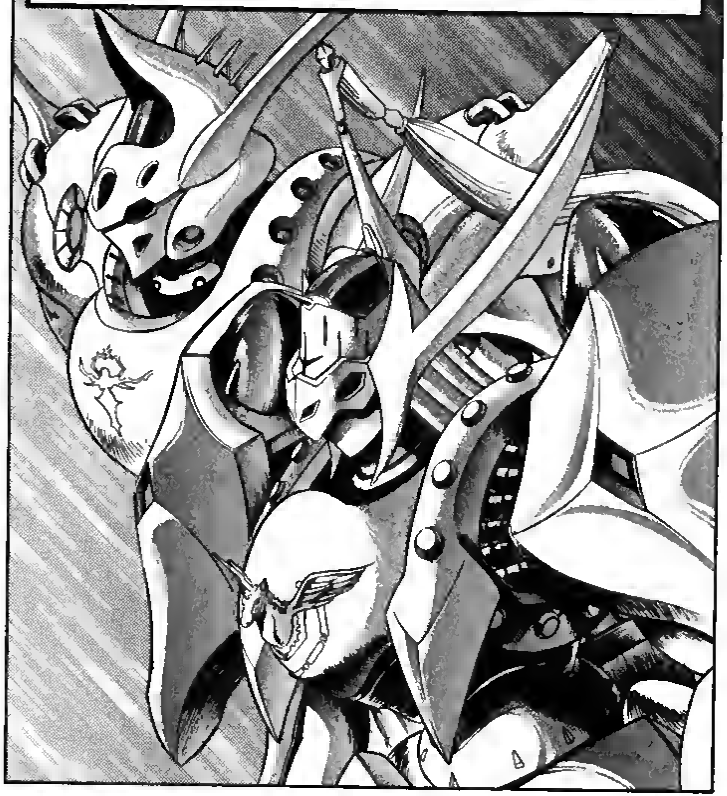
...
YO, ALLEN. WHY'D YOU HELP US?
PERHAPS I FELT SORROW, SEEING YOUR GENTLE COUNTRY LEFT AS IT WAS.
WHY?
I'M HAVING TROUBLE UNDERSTANDING SIR ALLEN. HE'S SO MYSTERIOUS..
OR.. PERHAPS I'M FEELING ILL.

WE, AND ALL WHO LIVE, WERE BORN FROM THE SEA.
THE SEA IS THE MOTHER OF ALL LIFE.
WERE WE NOW? DID SHE EVER SAY WHY SHE BOTHERED GIVING BIRTH?
MOTHERS WISH ONLY FOR THE HAPPINESS OF THEIR CHILDREN, DILANDAU. YOU ARE NOT EXCLUDED.
...
YOU'D BETTER WATCH YOUR MOUTH.
.....


I DIDN'T KNOW OF THE SEA BEHIND THIS TOWER.

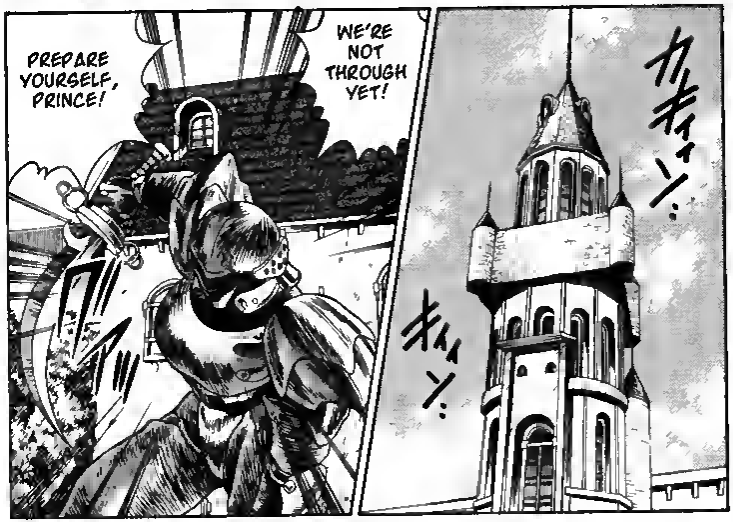

...
IF YOU WANT TO RETURN TO YOUR HOME AND YOUR SON, STOP STALLING.
IT SHOULD LOOK FAMILIAR, MY QUEEN. ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT OCEAN IS YOUR COUNTRY.

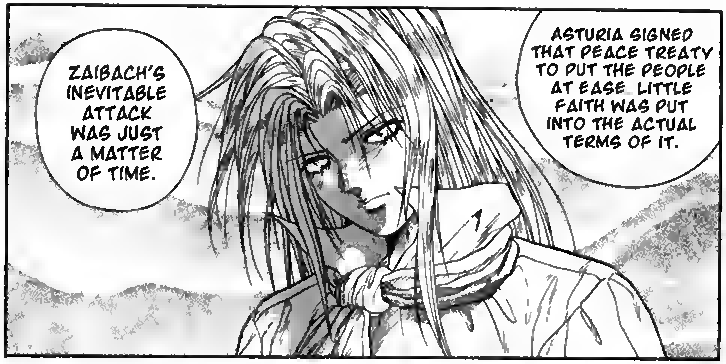
VISION 4:
RAH DRICK, DEMON OF THE HEAVENLY MOUNTAINS



BRING IT! I'M READY!
AAGH!

YEAH, WHATEVER. THAT'S NOT ENOUGH, POKER. THAT DILANDAU'S A DAMN MACHINE.
HEH. YOU HAVE THE AGGRESSIVE CHARGES DOWN.


PREPARE YOURSELF, PRINCE!
WE'RE NOT THROUGH YET!


ZAIBACH'S INEVITABLE ATTACK WAS JUST A MATTER OF TIME.
ASTURIA SIGNED THAT PEACE TREATY TO PUT THE PEOPLE AT EASE. LITTLE FAITH WAS PUT INTO THE ACTUAL TERMS OF IT.

THEY'RE AN EMPIRE, WE'RE REFUGEES WE'RE PRETTY MUCH DEAD
HEY, WHAT DO YOU REALLY THINK OUR CHANCES ARE AGAINST THEM?
SO WE'RE ALL SCREWED.

ME?!
EH?
SOME OPTIMISM WOULD BE NICE, MR. SUNSHINE. YOU'RE FORGETTING WE HAVE HITOMI'S ENERGIST POWERS TO EVEN THE ODDS.

SIR ALLEN, DOES SIDING WITH US PUT YOU IN DANGER WITH ZAIBACH?

DILANDAU WOULD NO DOUBT HAVE DONE ME IN ONE OF THESE DAYS.

PERHAPS... THE PEOPLE OF THE HOLY SPRING HAVE A WAY
WAIT! ARE YOU HIDING SOMETHING, POKER?
WELL...
YOU MEAN UBOO?!
IT'S SAID THAT IN THE DISTANT PAST THE ENERGIST WAS CONSTRUCTED THERE.
WHEN THE LATE KING WAS YOUNG, I HEARD A LEGEND ABOUT THE HOLY SPRING
!!
GOING TO UBOO IS IMPOSSIBLE.
UBOO IS THE PLACE WHERE THE GODS GO TO PURIFY THEMSELVES. I THOUGHT IT WAS A MYTH.
SO THEY'D KNOW THE SECRETS OF THE ENERGIST?

THAT BLAST EVEN TOOK OUT OILAND AU.
COME ON, THAT BLONDE BABE YOU KEEP TURNING INTO IS A TOTAL BADASS!
NO WAY! ALL THAT HAPPENED BY ACCIDENT. I CAN'T FIGHT!
EVERY TIME SHE SHOWS HER PRETTY LITTLE FACE, ESCAFLOWNE POWERS UP.
UM, YEAH.
I... BELIEVE WE NEED TO FIND A WAY TO CONTROL LADY HITOMI'S POWERS.
...

WHY WOULD THEY HELP? WE BROUGHT ZAIBACH'S WRATH DOWN ON THEM, TOO.
THERE'S STILL TIME. LET'S RETURN TO ASTURIA AND GATHER MORE FORCES.
IF WE DO NOTHING, ZAIBACH WILL FINISH US OFF. GIVEN THOSE CHOICES, I'LL TAKE SUICIDE.
LIKE IT OR NOT, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DO THIS ON OUR OWN.
IF WE'RE GONNA BEAT ZAIBACH, WE HAVE TO TAKE RISKS.
COWARDICE IS FOR THE WEAK AND THE DEAD!
VAN... ARE YOU OKAY?

RAH DRICK IS THE CURSED ZONE. NO ONE WHO HAS ENTERED HAS EVER RETURNED.
THE ONLY WAY TO UBOO IS THROUGH RAH DRICK, AN AREA COMPLETELY DEVOID OF LIFE.
WEREN'T YOU LISTENING? GOING TO UBOO IS SUICIDE!
MM.
FORGIVE ME, IT WAS A POOR IDEA.
WHAT ?!
I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO PACK GOOD LUCK CHARMS, THEN.

...WILL GIVE ME THE KEY I NEED TO GET BACK HOME.
MAYBE UBDO...
BUT HE'S RIGHT, I THINK. WE HAVE TO TAKE RISKS.
YOU'RE FROM THE BLUE STAR?
IT'S STRANGE
WHEN I WAS LITTLE, I ALWAYS DREAMED OF LIVING ON THE MOON AND STARING AT THE EARTH.

SIR ALLEN! H-HEY.
HI, HITOMI
WELL, A LITTLE.
HAVE YOU BEEN THINKING ABOUT THE TRIP TO UBDO?
I'M... I'M REALLY SCARED. I HAVE NO IDEA HOW VAN CAN BE SO BRAVE.

HM?
THEN WE'LL GO. WE'LL ALL GO TO UBDO.
...
NN
AND I SWEAR I'LL DO MY UTMOST AS A KNIGHT TO PROTECT YOU FROM HARM.
IS THAT ALL RIGHT?
SIR ALLEN...
TH-THANK YOU.
EWW! WHAT'RE THEY DOING?
HEY, HITOMI! WHERE'D YOU RUN OFF TO?
YEEG!
AND WHY AM I HIDING?

IF YOU GET HURT, I'M OUT AN ENERGIST YOU GET ME?!
DAMN!
WHAT? I DON'T --

HEY HITOMI, DON'T DO ANYTHING STUPID. OKAY?

YOU COULD LEARN SOMETHING FROM SIR ALLEN HE'S A GENTLEMAN
GROW UP
NO, HE'S AN ASSWIPE.
HMPH!

WELL, THANKS FOR YOUR CONCERN! NOW, WOULD YOU DROP THE ATTITUDE?
NO. BITE ME.
SIZZLE

I'LL BE FINE. PLEASE MIND THE FORTRESS WHILE I'M GONE
ARE YOU SURE YOU--
YES, SIR ALLEN
WE'RE OFF.

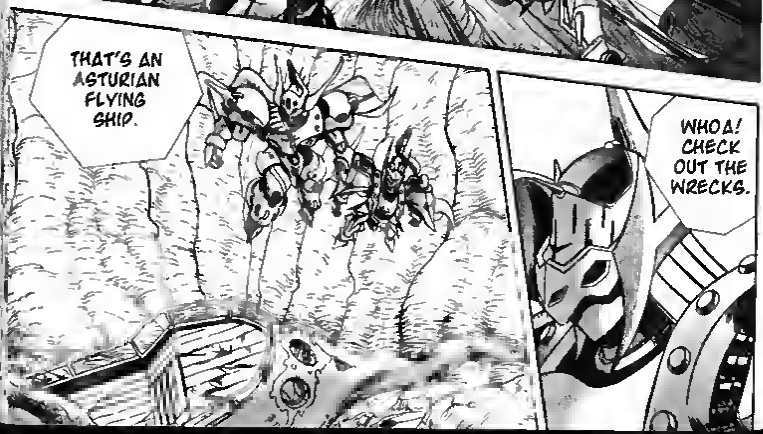
YOU KNOW I'D TAKE YOU, BUT ESCAFLOWNE ONLY FITS TWO TAKE IT EASY, MAN.
I WISH I COULD HELP YOU, MY PRINCE

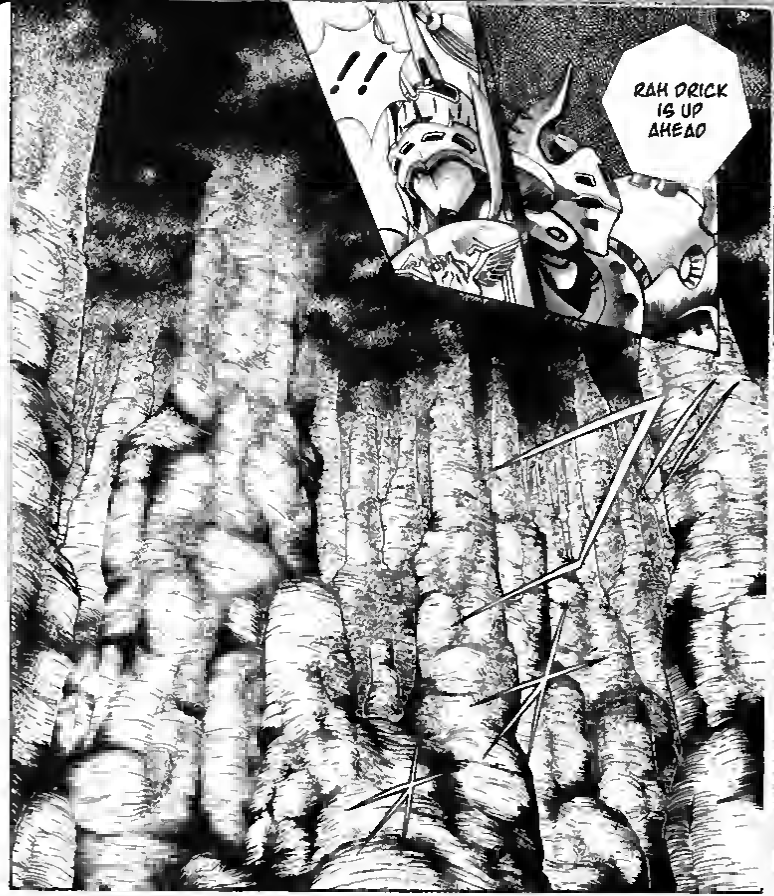
WHAT'S WITH YOU?
NOTHING SIR

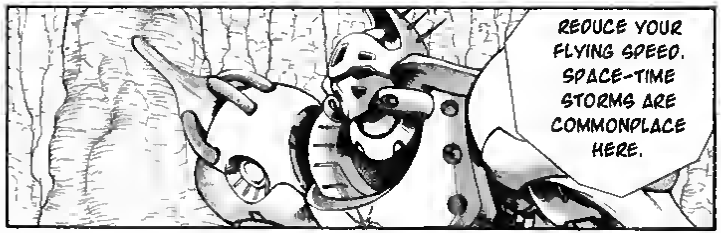
WHATEVER. LET'S JUST GO!
I'LL TAKE THE LEAD AND YOU THE REAR ALL RIGHT?

WHY DO THEY CALL THIS THE CURSED ZONE, ANYWAY?
Hmph
SO A DETOUR DODGING PILLARS IS SAFER? YOU'RE A REAL BRAINIAC, ALLEN

!!


THAT'S AN ASTURIAN FLYING SHIP.
WHOA! CHECK OUT THE WRECKS.


!!
RAH DRICK IS UP AHEAD


REDUCE YOUR FLYING SPEED. SPACE-TIME STORMS ARE COMMONPLACE HERE.

IT'S CERTAINLY OOO!
IT'S BEEN THREE HOURS AND STILL NO END IN SIGHT.
WAIT.
THAT'S THE SAME ASTURIAN SHIP FROM BEFORE!
CRAP! WE WENT IN A GREAT BIG FREAKING CIRCLE. NOW WHAT?
HUH?
HITOMI, ARE YOU GETTING ANY SORT OF VISION?
SOMETHING'S WRONG. BE ON YOUR GUARD.
WHOA! ARE YOU...? IS IT...?
HMM... HMMM MM...
A vision would come in handy.
WELL, I GUESS I'LL TRY TO.
NOT FUNNY
shake
JUST KIDDING. NO DICE!

SO THAT'S IT.
I-I THINK THE DAMN ROCKS ATTACKED US!
THE CURSED ZONE IS CERTAINLY AN APPROPRIATE TITLE.

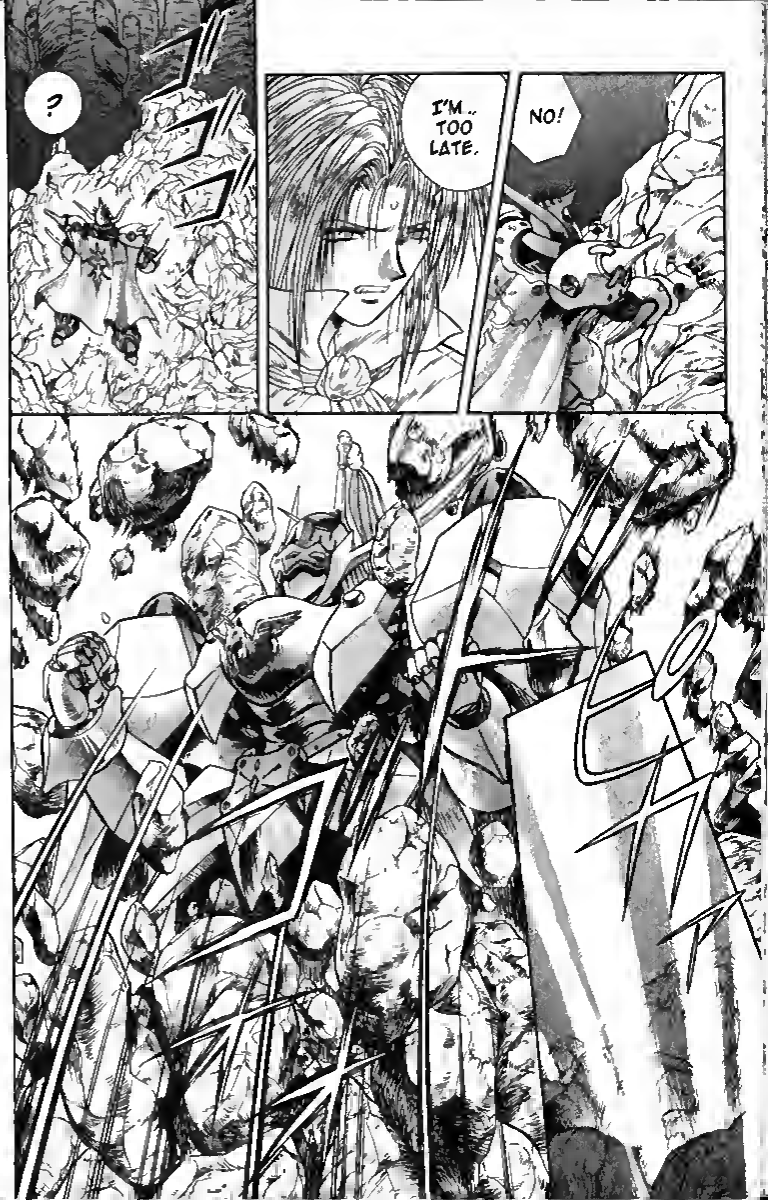
WHAT THE HELL?!
VAN?
HEY!

AA AR RG GH !!
OW!
MAN, I DON'T WANNA DIE LIKE THIS! LET GO!
VAN! HITOMI!

AAGH!
WHATEVER, IT'S JUST STONE. WE CAN TAKE IT!

SIR ALLEN!

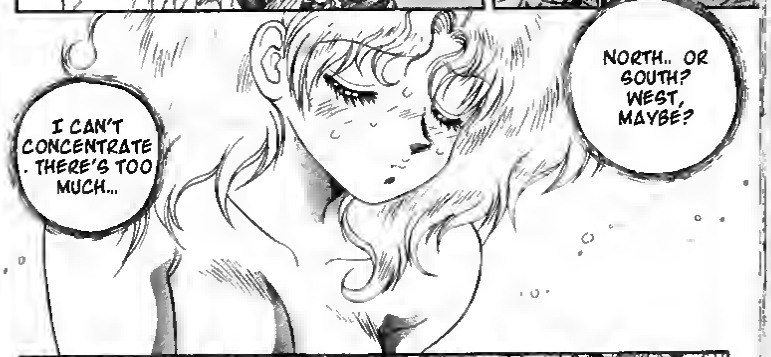
THERE'S ONLY ONE TRUE EXIT.
I THINK SHE'S TRYING TO GUIDE US OUT.
I CAN HEAR THE ENERGIST. SHE SAYS TO LOOK WITH THE EYE OF MY SOUL.
HITOMI! YOU MORPHED!

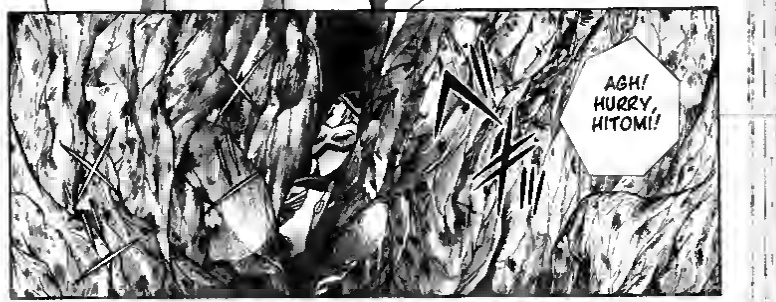

?
I'M.. TOO LATE.
NO!

VAN, NORTH BY NORTH-WEST!
GOT IT!
TAKE THIS!

SMASHING THEM DOESN'T WORK.
SHIT! THE ROCKS ARE CLOSING UP AGAIN.

WAIT!
FIND THE EXIT YET?


I CAN'T CONCENTRATE. THERE'S TOO MUCH...
NORTH.. OR SOUTH? WEST, MAYBE?


AGH! HURRY, HITOMI!

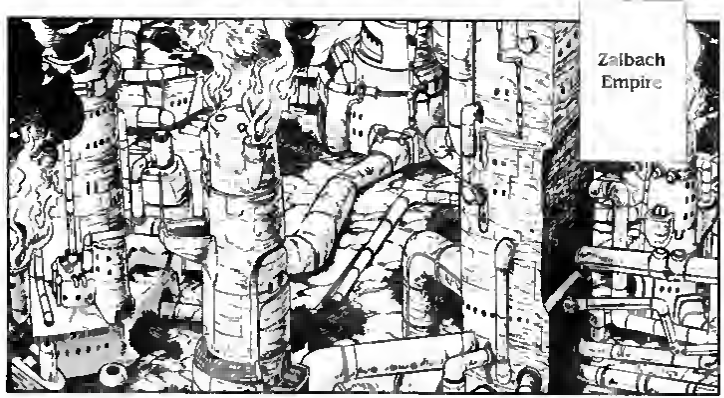
YOU WERE RIGHT! GOOD WORK!
THAT MUST BE... THE HOLY SPRING, UBDO!

IT WOULD BE WISE TO TRY AND HARNESS ITS POWER.
HMPH IT LOOKS LIKE WE SHOULD TRY TO DRAG ESCAFLOWNE BACK IN ONE PIECE.

YOU'RE UP TO IT, BABY, AREN'T YOU?

HOW?
AND HOW DO YOU PROPOSE WE DO THAT?

WITH THE KNIGHT OF FLAME, OF COURSE!


Zaibach Empire

YOU LOST TWO OF OUR TOP MACHINES?
I DEMAND AN EXPLANATION, DILANDAU.

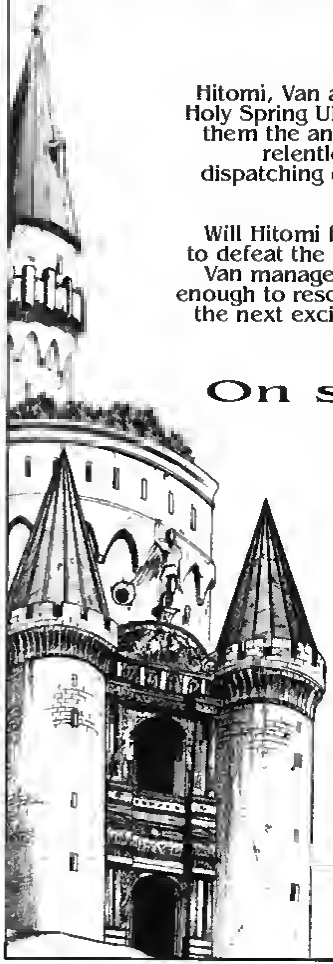
IT WAS ABLE TO DESTROY THE ARM OF MY MACHINE AND SEE THROUGH A STEALTH MANTLE.
WHAT?!

...BUT FANELIA'S GUARDIAN DEITY PROVED FORMIDABLE AS WELL.

WE WERE CAUGHT OFF GUARD, MARSHAL GELGURAN. NOT ONLY DID ALLEN SCHEZAR BETRAY US...

In the next volume of

THE VISION OF ESCAFLOWNE



Hitomi, Van and Allen have reached the Holy Spring Ubdo, but will their visit give them the answers they seek before the relentless Dilandau interferes...by dispatching one of his most feared and dangerous assassins?

Will Hitomi find the strength she needs to defeat the brutal Fire Knight? And will Van manage to control his temper long enough to rescue his mother? Find out in the next exciting volume of THE VISION OF ESCAFLOWNE.

On sale soon!

To be continued...